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The
HISTORY
Of
MARATHON
WISCONSIN

* * *

1857 TO 1957

PRICE - $1.25

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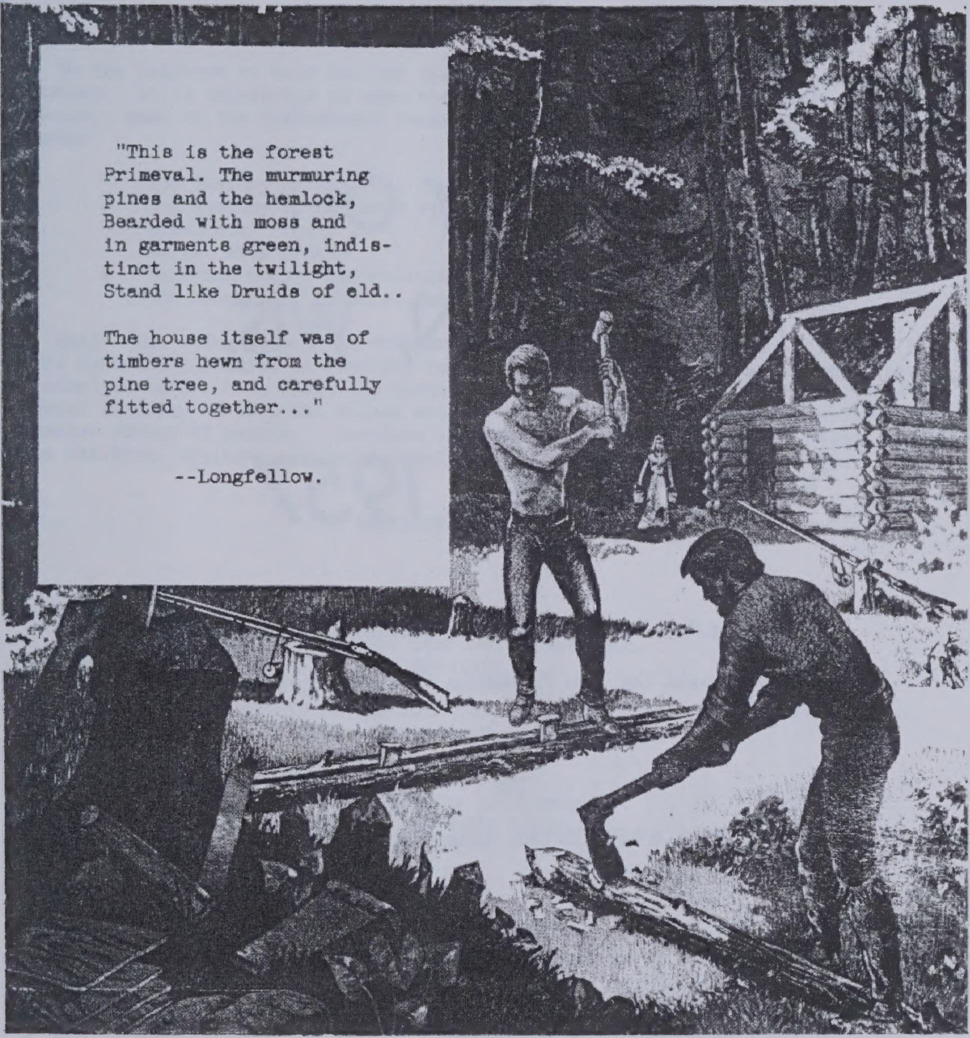
A special thank you to Alvina Szymanski and the family of Al Straub for allowing us to use the autographed copy of the original publication.

Al Strauch
610-5th Street
Marathon



"This is the forest
Primeval. The murmuring
pines and the hemlock,
Bearded with moss and
in garments green, indis-
tinct in the twilight,
Stand like Druids of eld..

The house itself was of
timbers hewn from the
pine tree, and carefully
fitted together..."

--Longfellow.

Joe Szymanski
609-5th Street
Marathon Wi 54448

THE
HISTORY OF
MARATHON, WIS.
1857 to 1957

Compiled By A. G. Straub, Assisted By Joe
Szymanski On The Occasion Of Its Centennial
Clelebration Sponsored
By
Post #469 Of The American Legion

PUBLISHED
1957
BY
MARATHON TIMES
MARATHON, WISCONSIN

Foreward

We are indebted to many for the help received in the preparation of this short History, it is impossible to name them all. Besides oral accounts given by local people, most of the information contained in these pages is based on the following works:

"The History of Marathon County" . . . . . . by Judge Louis Marchetti
"The History of Northern Wisconsin" . . . . compiled in 1884
"Wisconsin" . . . . by Edward A. Fitzpatrick
"Bright with Silver" . . . . by Kathrene Pinkerton
"Marathon County Agriculture" . by Wis. Crop & Livestork Reporter
"The Records of Schools, Churches and Stores in the Village"

While many volumes could be written about the little community of Marathon, this 1957 Centennial Booklet is confined to items of most general interest and greatest historical value. In fact, the hardest task was to omit some of the available material in order to keep the volume within a limit so that it would be procured by a greater number of people. Accounts of persons, places, and events, about which the children, visitors and local people asked were given special attention.

AGS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

The State, County, and Geography. 4
The First Settlements near and in Marathon. 8
Chronological Sketch 1860-1912. 14
Marathon of 1912. 27
Chronological Sketch 1912-1957. 28
Marathon of 1957 after 100 Years. 36
Business in Marathon. 45
Logging in the Marathon Area. 48
Agriculture in the Vicinity of Marathon. 51
Ginseng, Fur Farming and Maple Syrup. 54
The Housewife, Then and Now. 56
Sports and Recreation. 59
The Progress of Education. 61
The 1957 Centennial. 67

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"In a Centennial we must consider not only the inspiring Past but also the demanding Future" . . . . President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The State, County & Geography

Many thousand years ago most of Wisconsin was covered by huge sheets of ice reaching a thickness of several thousand feet. These were the glaciers, and the Marathon area, like most of the state, benefited greatly by these slowly-moving, grinding masses of melting ice.

The rivers and creeks created by these huge ground levelers brought with them rich deposits of ground-up powdered rocks, granite, limestone and shales. Most of these were deposited in our area, covering up rocks and spaces between them and doing a general leveling job. They also made huge deposits of sand and gravel so essential in constructing our modern roads and buildings.

The area of crystalline rock underlying all of Marathon County is covered on the surface with old glacial clay several feet in thickness, which makes an excellent soil for agricultural purposes and is distinguished for lasting productiveness. Its capacity for holding water prevents loss of crops even in more than moderate droughts while on the other hand, the undulating character of the surface drains all the surplus water from the land.

There is no natural lime stone in Marathon County. At the time of this writing plans are being made to mine Uranium for atomic energy about four miles Northeast of the village.

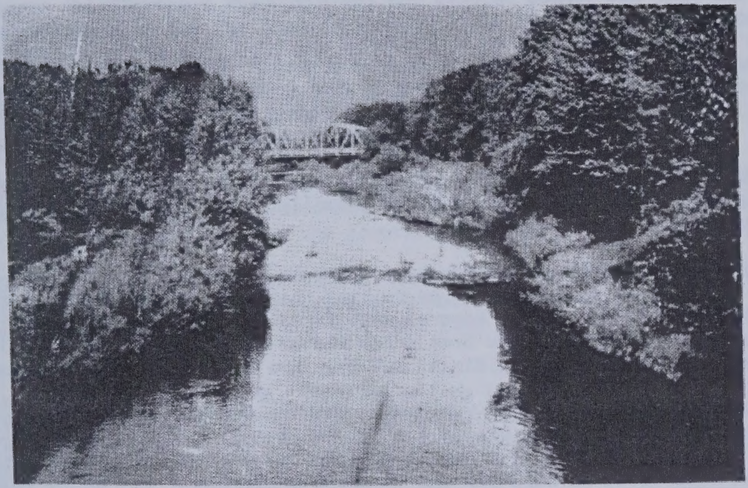
The area around Marathon is covered with the Spencer Silt Loam, a yellowish brown soil. There are extensive deposits of rotten granite, at times protruding through the top soil or mixed with it, and at times lying far beneath the surface. This is an excellent road builder. Although the local roads had been covered with this material as early as 1900, the pits were not worked extensively until 1946 when the Knauf Brothers and Schilling Brothers acquired large power shovels and fleets of trucks to haul the granite to many parts of the state.

About seven miles East of Marathon, being about six miles West of the Wisconsin River, rises Rib Mountain, a bold isolated crest said to be the highest point in the State, having an elevation of 1263 feet above Lake Michigan. This mountain is a hard brittle whitish quartz, often colorless. The Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company has a quarry on its top near the west end from which they remove stone for roofing materials. A state park is at the top near the east side and the north side is now a famous ski slope.

The Big Rib River flows through the village of Marathon. The Indians found good hunting and fishing along its shores, so that H. J. McKay in his poem, "The Time of the Pioneer", describes it as:

> "Big Rib, with bosom black and calm,
> Crept with spirit like David's Psalm,
> The dusky Redman tracked big game
> On the Rib and Mosinee."

This river has its origin in Rib Lake about sixty miles northwest of here and flows into the Wisconsin River eleven miles east of Marathon. During the Spring thaw the river becomes high and mighty, and at times floods the lowlands. Its many deep holes and whirlpools have claimed the lives of swimmers in its normal stage. Wall-eyed pike, pickeral, suckers, and the mighty muskelunge are still caught in its waters.



The Rib River at present is not harnessed by any dam, although at Rib Falls and for a short time at Marathon it had been dammed and the water used for driving mills. The Consolidated Power and Paper Co. has recently bought lands adjoining the river northwest of here and is contemplating a large reservoir to maintain a more even flow on the Wisconsin River.

Not all of the lands of the Marathon vicinity are drained into the Big Rib River. Several miles south of here, the creeks empty into the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, but eventually all of the surface water reaches the Gulf of Mexico through the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers.

One hundred years ago all of Marathon County was covered with magnificent forest, interspersed with wild meadows along the bottom lands of the rivers and creeks. On the banks of the rivers stood the majestic white pines and receding one mile or more from these banks, hardwood predominated, such as, maple, birch, ash, oak, bass-wood and butternut, liberally interspersed with pine, hemlock, balsam and spruce.

This forest had by 1912 largely given away to over six thousand five hundred farms hewed out of the wilderness. They were highly cultivated farms with modern frame and brick houses, fine large half and full basement barns, and silos and machinery sheds.

Marathon is located southeast of the intersection of the forty-fifth degree North latitude and ninetieth degree West longitude. In summer the temperature is mostly moderate, seldom reaching over 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Highest recorded is 107 degrees Fahrenheit. The winters are long, requiring heat in the houses from September until May. The average temperature is 43 degrees. One of the coldest years was 1899 when the average temperature for January was 35 degrees below Zero and 52 was the coldest recorded.

The nights, even during the hottest seasons, are invariably cool and pleasant. In the summer months, westerly and southwesterly winds prevail, and northern and north westerly winds predominate in winter; a change to easterly or northwesterly winds usually indicates rain or snow fall.

THE STATE, COUNTY & GEOGRAPHY

The average precipitation is 32 inches measured in rainfall, with June as the wettest and February as the driest month. The average snowfall is 45 to 55 inches per year. Snow blankets the ground about ninety days of the year. The growing season is from 120 to 130 days, being from May to September.

While the water for the cattle and people was at first from rivers, streams and springs or dug wells, now every farm has a drilled well ranging from 40 to 150 feet deep and producing wholesome water.

Marathon, in fact all of the county, seems to be out of the cyclone belt, and huricanes are of rare occurrence. The rolling character of the land, together with the fact that parts are still covered with forests, may account for the rarity of devastating storms. There have been a few storms at intervals as in 1898 and 1907, that felled much timber and buildings, but they are not a regular occurrence.

This is one of the healthiest regions in the healthy State of Wisconsin. Malarial sicknesses are unknown. The air, the soil, the water and the climate are as conducive to longevity as any other part of the United States. The death rate is about 8.2 and the birth rate is 26/3 per one thousand polulation. Mr. Henry Volhard lived to the age of 97 and his wife, Katherine, lived to celebrate her 104th birthday.

There have been several cases of Polio in the village but no epidemic, and it is hoped that the Salk Vaccination, which is now being given, will prevent the reoccurrence of this dreaded affliction.

Wisconsin belonged to the Indians until 1848 when they gave up their last claim to this region. But when and how the Indians came to this state, or where they came from originally is not exactly known. The French explorer, Nicolet, found them here when he first visited the Green Bay area in 1634. There seemed to be no permanent settlement of Indians at or near the present site of Marathon.

The Indians who made friendly inroads or visits to the vicinity of Marathon after the white man settled here, came mostly from the Smokey Hill and Rice Lake region on the Little Eau Pleine River, having come to the towns of Day and Green Valley from the Milwaukee area after 1833 when the latter became too extensively settled by the white men.

Wisconsin, and consequently the Marathon area, was under the following jurisdictions:

Spain	1512-1634	Illinois	1809-1818
France	1634-1760	Michigan	1818-1836
Great Britain	1760-1794	Wisconsin Territory	1836-1848
Virginia	1794-1800	Wisconsin State	1848
Indiana	1800-1809		

In 1836, when the Wisconsin Territory was organized, Madison was fixed as the capitol. Four counties were established, present Marathon was included in Crawford county.

The "Pineries" were prevalent in this area from 1836 to the late 1890's. The lumbermen and woodchoppers, however, took only the pine within reasonable distances of the rivers, so that their lumber could be floated down these waterways to the markets as far south as St. Louis, Missouri. Later much of the Wisconsin lumber was shipped to the Western plain states, so that it was said that there was more Wisconsin lumber there than in Wisconsin. Stories of the legendary Paul Bunyan and his huge blue ox prevailed in these times.

THE STATE, COUNTY & GEOGRAPHY

The reason this"Northern Wisconsin"was not settled sooner was that the reputation given the territory by the fur traders was that this land was stoney, sandy and barren, mountainous and marshy, cold and unhealthy, not fit for farming or even to be lived in by civilized people. In the "History of Northern Wisconsin" we read that in 1842-1843 the winter was most severe and the snow was unusually deep. Large numbers of Indians perished. One of the chiefs, Mayig, who had a large family, killed his squaw, and he and the children subsisted on her remains.

The lands in Marathon county at the time of the first settlers were government lands, not even surveyed. The homestead act did not exist until 1862, and there was no other way of getting land from the government except by purchase.

In 1842, Congress of the United States established the first Post route from Fort Winnebago via Grand Rapids (now Wisconsin Rapids) to Plover, Wisconsin. In 1850 it was extended to Stevens Point and in the same year a Postoffice was established in Wausau.

The first mill was built at Big Bull Falls (now Wausau) around 1840, and election precincts were established at Big Bull Falls and at Little Bull Falls (Mosinee) in 1842. In 1849 the town of Big Bull Falls was organized as part of Portage county to which all of Marathon County then belonged.

Through the efforts of Wisconsin Assemblyman, W. D. McIndoe, territory was detached from Portage county in 1850, and for the name of the county he selected"Marathon", probably indicative of the endurance required of the new settlers in this rugged wilderness. The unincorporated village of Bull Falls was named the county seat and was given the name of "Wausau", a Chippewa ideom meaning "Far Away".

While Marathon County then reached from present Portage County north and included Lincoln and other counties to the north to the present State line, the entire area was then one township, called the town of Wausau.

In 1853 the town of Marathon was organized and included in its territory the present county of Marathon. In 1853 and for several years later, the minutes of the board of supervisors refer to the "town and county of Marathon". In 1856 "the town and county of Marathon" was divided into three separate town organizations, the town of Wausau (which included present town of Marathon),the town of Mosinee and the town of Eau Claire. In 1857 and 1859 the town of Wausau was again divided resulting in the town of Marathon which then embraced in its territory township 28 from Range 2 to 6 (that is the present towns of Hull, Frankfort, Wien, Cassel, and Marathon).

Tradition has it that some time after the settlement of Marathon there was a move to make Marathon City the County Seat. It came up before the county board and the result was a tie vote. After several attempts to break the tie, a recess was called. It is said that when the board reconvened, the result of another ballot gave Wausau the lead of one vote and the Marathon board members somehow gained a dollar for the compromise.

By 1858 there was a daily line of stages between Wausau and Stevens Point, connecting at Mosinee with the Steamer "Northern". One Coach left Wausau at 7:00 A. M. and arrived at Stevens Point at 6:00 P. M. There were steamships on the Wisconsin River as far north as Mosinee until 1866, and for two years, 1858 and 1859, there was a steamship between Wausau and Mosinee, but this was found unprofitable.

There was a school, flour mill, and a Medical Doctor in Wausau at the time our first settlers came to the Village of Marathon, and the road from Wausau to Stevens Point was cut out to the south county line in 1857-1858.

FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN AND NEAR MARATHON

The first realfarm settler who came to the present town of Stettin was John Artus who had been working in the Wausau mills for some years. He bought eighty acres and moved on them in 1856. Wallace Artus is representing the fourth generation on the farm at the present time. In the same year came the four Buttke Brothers, Ferdinand, Karl, Christian and William, and their cousin Carl Buttke II; followed in the next year by Gotlieb Wendorf. The Kiepke Brothers, Fred Kopplien, August Weinke, Carl Haasch, F. Seger, Carl Kickbush, Daniel Radke, G. Kaatz, Carl Erdmann, Frederick Beilke, and J. Hildensperger also arrived in 1857. In the year 1858 came Ottmar and John Sauter from Swabia and Michael Erdmann and John Loy.

The present town of Rib Falls was settled contemporaneously with Stettin. The Wilde Brothers, August Heise and August Schröder coming there in 1856, followed by Carl Hanke and four or five others in 1857.

The Evangelical Luthern Congregation in the town of Stettin was organized by the Rev. A. F. H. Gebhard in 1862. The church was built in 1885. This good pastor had already come to the settlement in the Town of Rib Falls in 1861 and organized the Trinity Lutheran Congregation and served both congregations for over a quarter of a century.

The first white settler in the Town of Hamburg was Gottlieb Zastrow who bought some land in 1856 and moved there with his family and a team of oxen in the spring of 1857. He cut out a road as he went west of the Little Rib River to his farm, which took two weeks. They built a hut of brush, with balsam and hemlock branches serving as a rainshed, and in August the first white child, John Zastrow, was born in the township. He became the father of John A. Zastrow who still operates the original farm there.

The growth of the towns of Stettin, Rib Falls, Hamburg, and Maine was much faster than the Town of Marathon. The emigration from Northern Germany, where these Pomeranians originated, was much stronger than from the southern parts of Germany and from Pennsylvania where the settlers in the town of Marathon originated. While the farmers in the towns of Marathon and Cassel concentrated in cattle raising, those of the northern townships went into grain production. Both used oxen extensively as horses were more expensive to buy and keep.

To the south of Marathon were Mosinee and the Irish Settlement. Mosinee had been settled when the Pioneers came to Marathon City. Joseph Dessert had come there in 1844 and stayed in the lumber business.

The pioneer farmer in the Irish Settlement west of Mosinee was Thomas O'Connor, who came from Wauwatosa in 1860 with his family and a yoke of oxen. He cut a road for nine miles from Mosinee to his farm. His Irish followers were Felix McGuire, Edward Fitzgerald, James Murray, Tim Kennedy, William Hayes, Pat Burns, Garret Hughes, and William and John Keefe.

Shortly before the Civil War, when many men wore beards and mustaches a colonization scheme was planned in the city of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1856. It has its origin in a Catholic Church Society consisting in main of workmen and mechanics. They had labored for years in the rolling mills in that city and in other trades. They saw that there was no likelihood for them, while in employ, to make provisions for their old age, much less to give their children a start in life. Most of them had been born and reared in Pittsburgh and were of Bavarian, Swiss, Austrian and Alsace-Lorraine descent.

FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN AND NEAR MARATHON

They had heard of the good land in Wisconsin and made up their minds to become farmers in the "West". Knowing that they were going to an unsettled country, they desired to be as much as possible together, to help each other in cases of need. In order to accomplish this end,they organized a settler's club. "The Pittsburgh German Homestead Society" each member agreeing to pay into this common treasury the sum of $110 with which to buy government land in one large complex, each member to receive in return therefore eighty acres of land and one village lot in the village to be laid out on said land, and three acres of land on the outside bordering on the village to be called out-lots. (Note: Some of these out-lots are still between the River and Highway 29.) The land was to be drawn by lot by each member from the whole body of the land. This made each settler the owner of real estate in the village and he became interested in its future.

This club was organized in 1856, the same year that the first German Farmers settlers came to the other parts of Marathon County. They elected one Christmann, one Kalkenbeck and John Knapp as a committee to proceed to Wisconsin to locate the land in compact form for the society. This committee arrived at Stevens Point in 1856 where the Federal Land Office was located and took up about three thousand acres for the use of the society in township 28, range 6 east (which is the description of the present town of Marathon), and selected that portion on the west shore of the Big Rib River, which was supposed to be navigable (which it was for logs and canoes only)and had the village of Marathon City laid out and platted on paper.

In making that selection they very probably were influenced by what they undoubtedly heard in Stevens Point that there were mills in Wausau and at Mosinee not far from the proposed new village of Marathon City, and also that 160 acres bordering on the proposed new village had already been entered and a farm made thereon by Joseph Dessert of Mosinee, S.W. of the village, the present Sylvester Knoeck farm. These settlers knew they were going on timber land and expected hard work ahead in clearing land because they had seen the improved lands around Pittsburg which were originally timber lands, and the lumber industry carried on there on the Alleghany River; but they did not know that there was no road to their land or any road from one place to another.

From the records of the United States Land Office at Wausau, Wis.,it appears that the NW$\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec.7, Tp 28, N R 6 E was entered by Ludger W. Koelkenbeck on August 8, 1856.

A warranty Deed dated Feb. 5, 1857 conveys this NW$\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, (in which the village of Marathon is located), from Ludger W. Koelkenbeck and wife Clementine to the following: Joseph Kapp, Anthony Wollenschlager,Joseph Zimmerman,and Casper Hofman. Committee of the "Pittsburgh German Homestead Society"of the City of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Consideration $116.

In the spring of 1857 a number of colonists left Pittsburgh for their new homes arriving by way of Berlin, Wis., to Stevens Point and from there took the steamboat which ran the first season to Mosinee. Thus far everything looked promising. But when they arrived at Mosinee they were told that they could not reach their destination by any road nor by steamboat, and that the only way to get there was by going through the woods or, what was recommended, by canoe. It was Joseph Dessert who was consulted and being familiar with the description of the land,gave them reliable information. That was their first unpleasant surprise but there were more and stronger ones for them in store. With the aid of a half-breed Indian and Indians,they embarked in canoes and were landed at the present site of Marathon City.

FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN AND NEAR MARATHON

These settlers were Robert Schilling,John Linder,Thomas Peternick, Joseph Haesle, Michael Baur,Francis Tigges, and Anton Koester. Some were single, some had families. They remained together for a while, putting up two temporary log huts in the proposed village, until to each was pointed out his particular land by a surveyor. They then began to work on their own lands, putting up huts and helping each other.

During the same season came George Vetter, George Lang, Joseph Seliger, and John Vogedes all club members. Vogedes died in the same year and his death made a deep and lasting impression on the remaining ones. A few other not belonging to the club arrived, among them Mathias Halkowitz, who went as far as the present town of Wien, and Bernard Hilber who settled near Marathon City.

Others came and after finding themselves in an immense forest, without signs of civilization, such as: roads, schools, churches, and the absence of all conveniences which seemed an absolute necessity for cultured people,returned if they had the means leaving in disgust. But those who had not the means, and most of them were in this condition,had no choice; they stayed and took up the fight for existence as best they could.

Most arrived the following year,among them Anthony Schilling, who had been a fireman on the Mississippi steamboats. Others who came during this year and remained were Joseph Schuster, a bachelor, who taught school for many years in this community, John Sturm, another teacher,Peter Heil, John Lemmer all from Pittsburgh, and Charles Marquardt, Fred Haman, and William Garbrecht coming directly from Germany.

Soon afterwards came Jacob Duerstein, who settled in the town of Wien, so named because of the first settler in that township, Math Halkowitz,had come from the city of Vienna (Wien). Halkowitz had been a ladies tailor in Vienna, and to exchange the needle for the axe and plow was not an easy matter for him. When asked why he settled so far from the other settlers he said he had bought his land in Pittsburgh from land speculators, and was shown a plat representing the city of Marathon, showing the steamboat landing, church, school house, market square,and was told that the country was well settled with more settlers streaming into the area. Believing in these statements,he did not want to be too close to the city, because he wished to keep cattle and expected to have more pasture room some distance from Marathon City,so he took up the land eight miles further west. When he arrived at Mosinee the group of settlers going to Marathon City had not yet arrived. He found neither a road nor a Path to go there so he returned to Berlin,Wisconsin and waited for some of the other settlers with whom he came to Mosinee again. These were not the very first settlers who went to Marathon City by Canoe, but the second arrivals. They then made a sort of road to Marathon City and had a surveyor show him the land eight miles further west.

The first troop of settlers arriving in the summer of 1857 built two houses on the east side of Main Street just south of the river which they used until their houses on their lands were located and advanced far enough to be habitable. All houses were of course, log houses, as no lumber could be procured nearer than Mosinee, and there was no road to Mosinee,nor anywhere else for that matter,except a trail through dark thick forest. The village was laid out,but there was hardly any settlement for years. Anton Koester and John Linder being the only ones living in the platted part. This was the modest beginning of farming in Marathon County from which sprang up the wealthy farming communities of today, which compare well with much older settlements in eastern and middle states.

FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN AND NEAR MARATHON

These pioneer farmers had their trials, their hardships, their sufferings, their privations, for many years the coarsest of fare and garments. The worst days of anxiety and fear, amounting almost to desperation, not only days but often weeks, were experienced when sickness laid its paralyzing hand on a member and the family had to see the suffering of one of them, without the ability to alleviate the pain, there being no physician within miles, not even a road to reach him, and, in any event, without the means to secure his attendance. And when death came as an angel of mercy to the stricken one and the waisted body was laid to rest in a pine box, what must have been the feeling of the father,mother or children, reared in Christian Communities when the body was interred without the last consolation of religion? How often under such circumstances may not the afflicted ones have cried out in bitterness of their heart, "Oh, why did I come to this country?"

It was a hard life even for the strong and healthy. Once the rough cabin was completed, the man had to go forth for provisions from 15 to 25 miles, carrying them on his back through trails over swamps hardly passable, leave his wife and children at home alone in the wilderness until he returned after an absence of two or three days, often more. Returning with the necessities, the man had to go forth again to seek work in sawmills in Wausau or Mosinee to earn means to sustain bare life which the ground did not even give him until he had cleared and cultivated at least ten or fifteen acres, which took five to ten years at best, often longer.

The men sought work in saw mills,in logging camps,going to the prairie in harvest time a hundred or more miles away, taking their pay in provisions or in anything offered, those who went harvesting brought back cattle taken in payment for work when money was a rarity. For at least eight years their life was a continual struggle with nature against hardships of all sorts, which only the strongest constitutions and characters could conquer.

When the settler had provisions which could last him for, say, four to six weeks. he could begin clearing; first the underbrush; then the trees, which were a hundred or more to the acre, cut the trees in lengths to fit them for the burning pile, haul the logs together and roll them in piles, then burn the piles, keep rolling until everything was burned. It was not an easy or quick job to burn the big green basswood, pine, and hemlock logs. It sounds like blasphemy today to speak of burning basswood, pine, and hemlock logs, but what else could be done, if crops were to be raised? There was no sale for hardwood timber, it could not be flated, and it cost more to haul the very best pine logs ten miles to the mill than they were worth. It most instances it was impossible by reason of distance to haul even pine to the mill.

The Settlers'club desired to have the village ground cleared along the Rib River. They gave the standing pine, and it was splendid pine, to Joseph Dessert for cutting and hauling it away. But Mr. Dessert was not unmindful of their wants. When the first church was built in Marathon City (1863) he gave them all the lumber free of any charges, of course at the mill yard.

It sounds sometimes ridiculous to hear conservationists, so-called, to lament the loss of timber in early days and speak reproachingly of the waste of wealth and timber. But if the country had to wait for them to open the land for cultivation it is safe to say that Marathon County would be today in its original wild state. And where was the damage? The cleared land produced crops every year, but there was only one crop of timber, and that had to be taken off to raise the crops without which the settlers could not exist.

After the land was cleared,then came the planting among stumps, roots, and stones and rocks, which had to be piled together, too, and fence making came also. Cattle were roaming free, in fact all domestic animals were running at large picking their food in woods. After cattle food, such as hay and straw had given out in spring,the cattle browsed on the young shoots of the fresh cut trees,not good for milking cows, but it kept them alive.

FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN AND NEAR MARATHON

The pioneer women as well as the men were heroes in their way. Besides helping the men to clear the land they carried on their household duties of cooking and the making of coarse home spun clothing. These pioneer women were not given much to fear, least of all to hysterics. Many men and women might be mentioned by name as deserving of the lasting gratitude of later generations. They all made a mark for themselves--they opened a road for thousands who came after them to profit by the sacrifices of their predecessors.

The Settlers club had laid out the village of Marathon City and soon recorded this plat of 1858, as each of their members were entitled to one city lot and three acres of the outlots.

In the 1858 Plat there were only five lots in each block, having the same width as at present but extending from street to street instead of from street to the alley as at present, but there was an east ½ and west ½ to each lot. The land in the village was wild with trees and brush. They had laid out on paper a square for the church and one as a public square, with a cemetary on the outlots west of the village. Fourth Street, running East and West, was intended to be the Main Street; it was 80 feet wide and passed the proposed Market Square which is the site of the present Public School block.

The land speculators in Pittsburgh got a hold of this plat, and changed it for their purpose by showing thereon a fine church building and a town hall, and in the river they had a picture of a steamboat, a fine two-wheeler, in the act of going to steamboat dock. This was done to make the people out east believe that there was already a city with a market and a fair sized population as persuasive argument in selling the wild land in this and other parts of Marathon County.

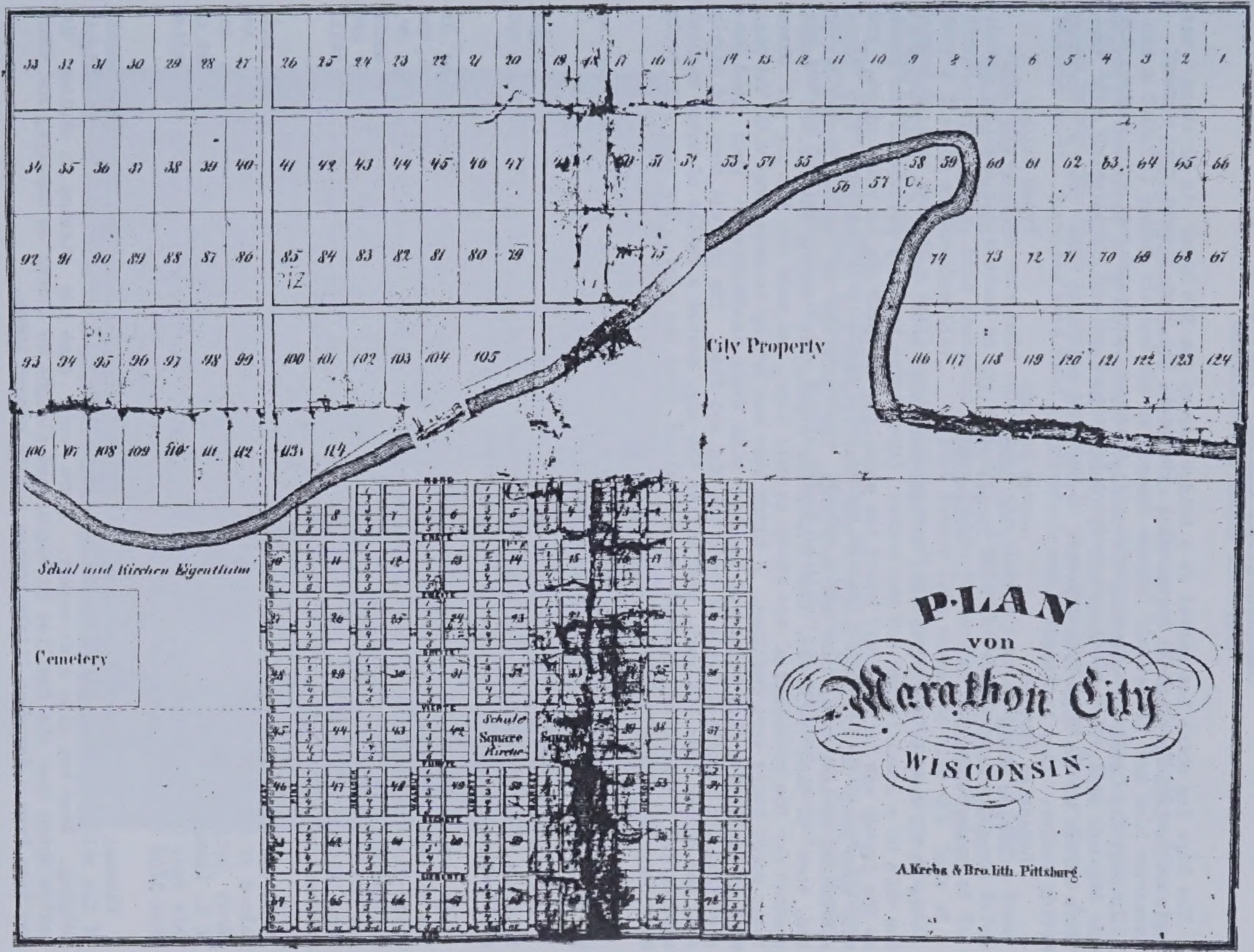
The real estate speculators purchased for a song land warrants issued to all honorable discharged soldiers of the Mexican War, and with these warrants, which were taken for money at the United States Land Office purchased land in Marathon County and sold it to prospective settlers. They succeeded in selling a large part, some people buying as an investment, some, though not many, came up and made settlement in the present towns of Cassel, Marathon and Wien, many of them going back after seeing the wilderness; only a few remained.

Those that bought the land and held it for many years, paying the taxes thereon, were able in after years to get their money back with perhaps very little, if any, interest, Many neglected to pay the taxes and lost it thereby. When, after fifteen or twenty years, the settlement had largely grown and improved, the speculators came back and attacked the tax titles in court and were usually successful in having these titles set aside in favor of their original titles which the speculators had procurred for a few dollars. This abuse of the speculators claiming lands under their original title, led the Legislature to the enactment of the "Statutes of Limitations" which made an end to this sort of litigation.

There are no records of boisterous gun fights or serious brawls in our pioneer community as are so often depicted in stories of other frontiers.

The first white child born in this community was Jacob Vetter in 1858, the son of George Vetter of the town of Marathon. The first one born in the village was Joseph Klein.

In August of 1858 the little community engaged Joseph Schuster as schoolmaster. His main preoccuption, as stipulated by contract, was to teach German at least four times a week, and Religion every day including Sundays, all for $15 per month.



MAP OF VILLAGE OF MARATHON CITY - 1858

CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1860-1912

The huge log which has served as a bridge across the Rib River in Marathon was replaced in 1861 by a wooden bridge made of timbers sawed locally by hand.

In 1861 the Civil War started. No complete County records of those who served in the War was kept, at least none can be found. The archives of the State show that there served in the Army from Marathon County 286 soldiers, the town of Marathon having twelve. They included:

Sebastian Kersten
Charles Klein
Romculd Schilling
Henry Volhard
George Schremp
John Hahn
Thomas Bedenick
Idisor Murr
Frank Nolden
Samuel Redotzke
August Schroeder
John Hanke

The Civil War, as any other war, brought hardships upon many. It happened that the wife of a local farmer and her mother (they being the only persons in the house as the farmer was in the army) heard the squealing of their pig in the night, and they knew that in all probability a bear was attacking it in the pen. They could not afford to lose their best and only pig. The wife and her mother jumped out of bed, took no time to dress, didn't lock for a gun, but coming out of the house reached for the handspike always ready to roll logs, and made for the pig pen where their worst fears were realized. A black bear was trying to make away with the pig. Without hesitation they belabored the bear with their handspikes to such good purpose that the surprised bruin dropped the pig and fled. The pig was torn and nearly dead and not to lose its meat, they killed the pig, heated a kettle of water without waiting for the morning, dressed it and salted down the meat. How many men could have done as much or better?

In 1864 the Post Office of Marathon City was established with Anton Koester as postmaster. In 1883 the name of this office was changed to "Marathon."

All the work was by land, but in 1866 the first separator-thresher was brought into the County by Charles Zastrow of the town of Hamburg. The flail had been and still continued to be the chief tool for threshing grain for many years.

As late as 1867, after ten years of settlement, there were but a few houses in the village. Coming from the town of Stettin across the river there were, on the east side of the road, two log houses close together. One was occupied by Mr. Osterbrink, who had lost an arm. He was the mail carrier. Four blocks further south was the Mission church and the parsonage. Then came the home of John Linder and the little store of John Blume, who was the Postmaster from 1870 to 1879, and still further south, nearly on top of the hill was the district school house.

On the west side of the road several blocks from the river was the log home and saloon of Anton Koester. Another small building was a little further south, and about half way up the hill was a small square of logs to mark the spot where a son of J. Lemmer lost his life by the accidental discharge of a gun. A little west of this spot was the house occupied by the teacher, Mr. Strum, who was the postmaster from 1868 to 1870, and in another house the teacher's brother-in-law lived.

Michael Baur had a spacious house on the northwest corner of his farm just south of the village. Here travelers and newcomers could get a meal and a good nights lodging. Baur was also a shoemaker. There were some log stables to shelter the cattle which drew the families on wagons and sleighs to church on Sundays, and there may have been a few more little houses not to exceed three.

In the winter of 1867-1868 Charles Klein opened a blacksmith shop, and in 1868 Frank Nolden opened his wagon shop in the village.

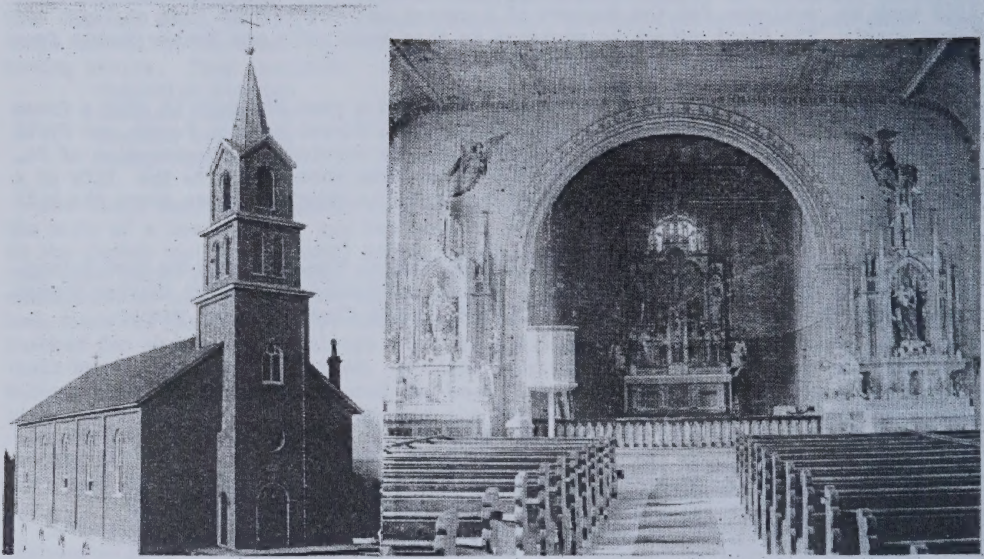
CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1860-1912

Sundays were days of rest and devotion. A few years after the first settlers had come a Catholic priest visited the settlement several times a year and held services. Not content with the occasional services, the Colonists at a meeting in November 13, 1859 took up a pledge for the support of a priest who would visit them at least six times yearly. The first priest to minister to them regularily was Father Stehle from Stevens Point. Services were held in private homes.

Up to 1866 services were held only about six times a year, although in 1863 a frame church building was erected on the east side of Main Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets, and the Rev. Lutz succeeded Father Stehle in serving the Congregation of St. Mary's Mission at Marathon City. In 1865 Father Lutz chose to live the life of a hermit for some years in a small log building standing a short distance above the hill at Joe Haesle's farm.

For a few months during 1865 and 1866 Father Michael Schweback was the last itinerant priest to serve from Stevens Point. He was succeeded by Father Charles Hangen who assumed the pastorate of St. Mary's Church as its first resident pastor.

ROAD CUT THROUGH FOREST SOUTH OF MARATHON, NOW STATE HIGHWAY 107



ST. MARY'S CHURCH WITH SCHOOL IN BASEMENT 1875 to 1910

In 1875 Father J.Reiser became pastor of St. Mary's and presided over the building of a new solid brick church. A school was built in the basement. This building was on the east side of Main Street between Fifth and Sixth Street and faced South. The school was staffed in 1882 by the Franciscan Sisters from Manitowoc.

The territory of which Marathon is a part had been under the following ecclesiastical jurisdictions:

Early 1700's	of the Quebec Canada Diocese
Later	Bardstown, Kentucky
1821-1833	Cincinnati, Ohio
1833-1837	Detroit, Michigan
1837-1843	Dubuque, Iowa
1843-1868	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1868-present	LaCrosse, Wis. diocese

Among the pioneers of the congregation were listed the names of John Linder, John Vogedes, Michael Baur, Francis Trigge, George Lang, Anton Koester, Blathsas Fisher, Joseph Witberler, George Vetter,James Lemmer, Karl Bechtold, John Blume, Peter Heil, Sebastian Karl, Herman Seliger, Frank Mitsch, Fritz Klink, Jacob Duerstein, Joseph Hornung, Joseph Schuster, Joseph Haesle, Joseph Urban, Bernard Hilber, Frank Sauter, Joseph Mess, Ludwig Schmidt and Peter Roth.

Sunday was a happy day for the isolated pioneers. They came to their temporary church even when there was no priest to conduct the services. They came for devotions among themselves, some from a distance of 12 miles, as the Hornungs, who then lived in the present town of Wien. The trip was made on foot, or with oxen and later by horse and wagon. Quite a contrast to the people of to-day, some of whom use their automobile to go three or four blocks.

After devotions they stayed in the village site to visit and to discuss their problems and their hopes. After working hard and alone all week clearing, logging off, burning timber, cultivating and planting, this communication was wholesome and encouraging. Besides occasional trips to Mosinee and Wausau for provisions; this was the only contact many of the lonely settlers had with other people.

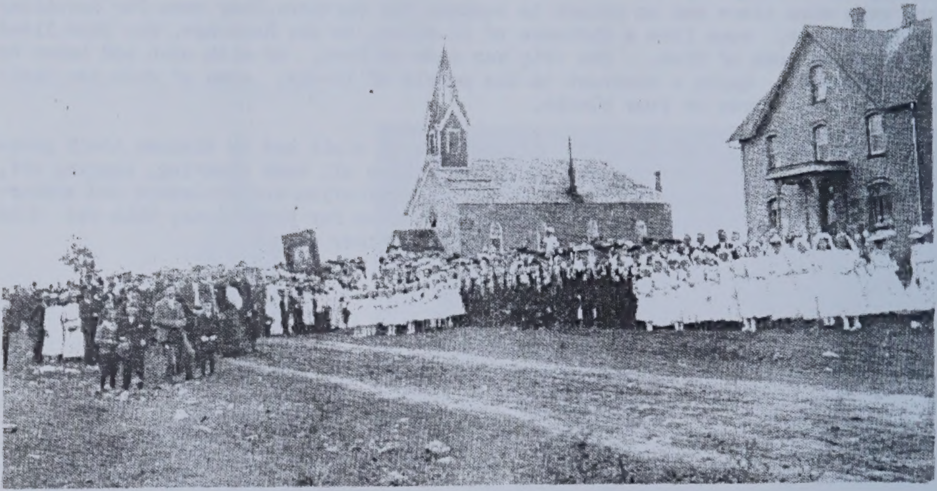
THE FRICKE MILL ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE RIB RIVER WEST OF THE STEEL BRIDGE

The growth of Marathon City was slow but steady. Several attempts had been made to build dams to drive grist mills, but the treacherous Rib River had carried them away. Nevertheless Henry C. Fricke, who came from Manitowoc with a team of oxen and a covered wagon, succeeded in harnessing the river for a while and built a grist mill in 1870 and soon afterwards a saw mill. In 1875 he built a two story brick house on the south bank of the river near his mills, on Main Street. Today this building is used as an office of the Menzner Lumber Company and the residence of two families.

Meanwhile John Linder had built his large hotel and hall on Main Street, which later burnt down. George Drengler had come and built a store, the present Post Office building. These business establishments made Marathon City quite an important village and trading point serving its inhabitants and about seventy-five farmers in the present townships of Marathon, Cassel, Rib Falls, Stettin, and Wien.

The axe, the sickle, the scythe, cradle, and hoe, besides the plow and harrow were the only agricultural implements of these pioneers. The first mower and reaper were introduced in the county in 1874, and the first harvester, a McCormick, came in 1880.

CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1860-1912



EARLY SACRED HEART CHURCH & RECTORY AT CASSEL

By 1870 many of the Polish people in Poland who had worked for lords under serfdom all their lives heard of opportunities in America to become property and landowners. Polish emigrants began to arrive in United States, many of them settling in Milwaukee working in factories and docks; but the 1870's were lean years in this country and work was not plentiful, so many of these bought land in Marathon County.

In 1875 and shortly thereafter some of these Polish Emigrants settled in what is now the Town of Cassel. Among the early settlers we find the names of Stanley Koppa, Martin Skrzypchak, Joseph Adamski, Joseph Nowak, Stanley Wadzinski, Theodore Fons, John Kordus, Joseph Maciejewski, Michail Ventland, Martin Lewandowski, Albert Szymanski, John Soczka, Joseph Muschinski, Andrew Pospychalla, Mike Rodman, John Cerba, Mathew Michalski, John Starzinski, Joseph Knetter, Joseph Tuschinski, and others.

In an interview with Mr. John Koppa, who is now 86, who then was four years of age, he gives this account of his father's arrival and settlement in Cassel. Stanley Koppa arrived in Milwaukee in 1873 from Poland. Got a job unloading sand at one of the docks; there were times when ships did not come into port so here was no work. In 1875 Stanley Koppa decided to move into the Camping Country as the northern area was generally know at that time. After he bought tickets (Train Fare) for a family of seven he had $25 in cash and a few personal belongings with which he arrived in Wausau in November of 1875. There they hired a team of horses and a wagon which brought them near to their new home, but they had to walk about a mile further to a shanty about 12 by 16 feet on the back forty acres of the present homestead, which was built probably by the Rietbrock Logging Company from whom the 80 acres was purchased.

They had no food whatsoever so Stanley Koppa walked to Marathon City to get some provisions. He got some peas from the Urban Family. During the winter of 1875-76 peas were eaten three times a day, the family consuming a total of nine bushels which kept them alive through the winter. Game was plentiful but they had no gun, nor money to purchase one.

In the summer of 1876 some crops and vegetables were grown. Mr. Koppa scythed hay for a farmer north of Marathon City that summer in payment for which he received a cow.

CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1860-1912

The Polish Settlement continued to grow. People went to Marathon City to trade most of the time but at times they went as far as Mosinee, Stevens Point, or Wausau. All the early Polish settlers were of the Catholic Faith, since there was no church in their community they either went to Marathon City or later to Poniatowski to church. By 1886 about 30 families had settled in central Cassel, a congregation was established, and a brick church was built, the brick was hauled by horse and wagon from the Athens area. The congregation was a mission to Poniatowski with Father Gara officiating. In 1902 the Parish Rectory was built and Father Wojak became the first resident pastor. The first wedding in the new church was that of Frances Adamski and Charles Lepak on Jan. 18,1887, while the first baptism was that of Sophi Jozwiak on May 5, 1887. The Parish school was built in 1910, prior to that the children attended the public school located at the town hall site where George Schields was the first teacher.

A tavern and dance hall were built by Theodore Lepak, a store by Martin Kalamajka and one later by Stanley Gretz. A blacksmith shop was also operated on Lepak's Corner. First owners of cars were Fred Pietrowsky and Balthasar Furger.

Florian Lemmer owned the first steam threshing engine but it was not a self-propelled unit, like the one operated by Henry Heil and John Werner in 1889. Prior to the steam units , horsepower threshing units were operated by Peter Heil and one by John Kordus. These settlers raised rye and wheat for flour and oats for feed. The grains were taken to Rib Falls where Baesman operated a water-powered grist mill, or they would be ground by hand by means of a small hand mill.

Rural delivery in Cassel was innaugurated in 1901, with Joe Muschinski as the first rural mail carrier. He first delivered the mail by means of bicycle, later a motorcycle, then by horse and buggy or cutter. "St. Paul Dispatch", was the first daily paper in the area giving a years subscription and a free mail box for $3.00. The county news was disseminated by two weekly papers from Wausau, the "Pilot" and the, "Herald".

The Italian Mill was founded by a miner, Peroni, in 1891 who came to the area in search of minerals but ended up in the lumber business by building a saw-mill. Later he sold the mill to Deprato who bought two shares and Rosi who bought one share. This mill was in operation until the early 1900's.

In 1877 the Village of Marathon City had 150 inhabitants.

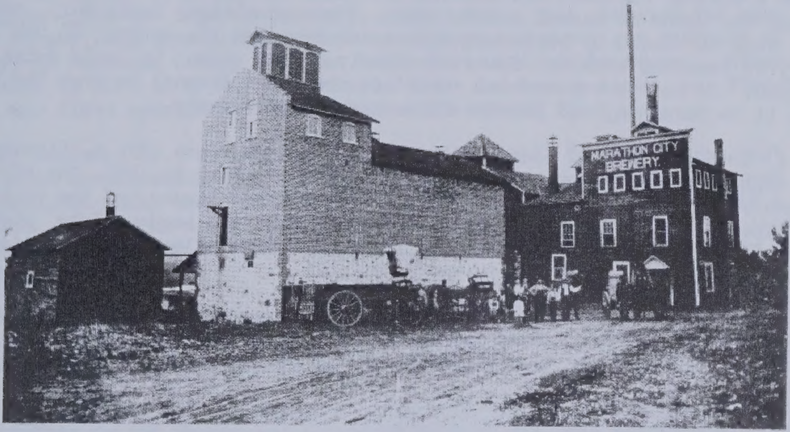
CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1860-1912

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH IN USE SINCE 1888

The families living in the Village of Marathon belonging to the German Evangelical Lutheran Faith organized into a congregation in 1879. Pastor William Hudtloff resident minister of the Town of Berlin, held services for them in the school house. In 1887 they had grown in number, incorporated, bought a lot and erected the church in 1888. Ministers who succeeded Pastor Hudtloff are the Reverends Hoffmann, Himler, Pietz, Reiner, Walther, Bussack, Dux, Hoeneck, Kolander, and G.O. Krause the present Pastor. A parsonage was erected in 1903 which was replaced by present parsonage in 1925.

In 1881 the Marathon City Brewing Company was organized by Stuflfouth. It employed eleven, brewed approximately 300 barrels of beer per month and the beer was sold at $4 per barrel, 50¢ of which was tax. Sindemann took over the brewery from Stuhlfouth and in 1901 Brandt and Schmidt became partners. In 1905 it was formed into a corporation functioning continually except during prohibition from 1921 - 1933 during which time near-beer was brewed for a time and malt was sold. In 1956 the output of the brewery was about 8600 barrels which retailed at $23.50 per barrell of which $10 was tax.

CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1860-1912



In 1882 John A. Lemmer built his saw mill west of the brewery, which opened a market for the wealth of timber in the area. This mill was later operated by Schilling.

The residents of the village planned a celebration on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the day when the Pittsburgh pioneers first set foot on this soil. The celebration was held on Monday June 9, 1882, and it was a splended festival. A salute of 25 guns opened the day. At noon a parade was formed and moved to the park which was decorated for the occassion. The procession was led by John A. Lemmer, marshall, on horseback. Speeches and dancing took up the afternoon. A sumptious feast was served atthe festival by the ladies. A band from Rozellville furnished the music.

Many of the speakers and guests were from Wausau who had come over on a three seated democrat wagon. On the way home, the pole of the wagon came out of the neck yoke, poked into the curduroy road and pitched the wagon into the air dumping the accupants out and the horses running away. The party wandered back to Wausau on foot.

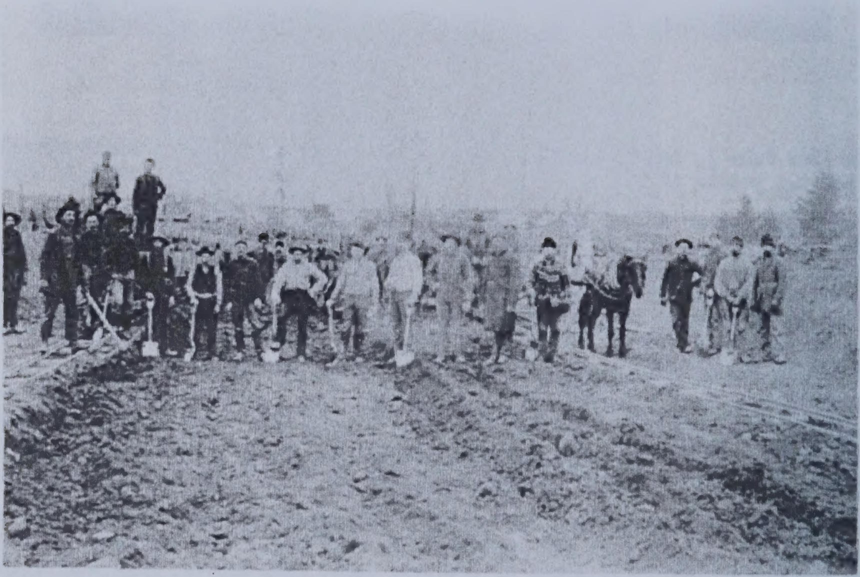
On May 29, 1884 the Village of Marathon City was duly incorporated, with John A. Lemmer elected as president and supervisor to represent it on the county board. The other members of the first Board of Trustees were: John Linder, Fred Quade, John P. Fochs, Michael Bauer, Joseph Trauba, and Edward Hermann. In the same year the original plat of 1858 was corrected by judicial proceedings and duly recorded on June 12, 1884.

The fastest growth in population in the village was from 1877 to 1900 when it increased from 150 to 678; from 1900 to 1950 it increased to 853. The census of 1880 showed 871 people in the town and village of Marathon, and in 1890 there were 1438. In 1900 the village had 678 and the town had 528 people.

In 1886 the first hospital was built in Wausau, being on the corner of Second and Scott Street (The present Radant Furniture Store). Up to now surgery had to be performed in homes, logging camps, or boarding houses. As late as 1890, some surgeons believed that tobacco smoke was a good sterilizer and disinfectant, and smoked even through surgical procedure.

The old steel bridge on Main Street just west of the present structure was built in 1887 at a cost of $6,000. It replaced a wooden bridge. It was financed by the Village and the Towns of Cassel and Marathon. When completed, Henry Heil, treasurer of Cassel went to Wausau by horse and cutter and borrowed the entire $6,000 from the Old First American National Bank. He received the loan in gold coins of $20 denomination. He had to buy several yards of checkered flannel to wrap the bullion and bring it to Marathon, and pay the Milwaukee Bridge Company.

While a "Hook and Ladder" club existed in the village since 1892 a "fireman company" was organized at a special meeting of the village board in 1895. The six appointed firemen were to receive instructions about chemical engines; had the right to appoint helpers, and to engage the services of the Hook and Ladder Club; they were authorized to enact laws and by-laws, and fire prevention rules and regulations.



BUILDING THE RAILROAD EAST OF MARATHON

The Railroad reached the Village of Marathon City in 1891. It was the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railroad. On July 4, 1892, Ringling Brothers' Circus was at Wausau. The new railroad advertised a round trip ticket from Marathon to Wausau, including the admission ticket, for ninety-five cents.

CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1860-1912

Originally the new settlers of the Marathon area were Democrats, which party became the majority in the county upon their arrival, and with a few exceptions gained yearly until 1892; but due to the 1893 depression or panic, the Party was nearly wiped out in the 1894 election in Marathon County. The panic of 1893 paralyzed business throughout the Nation. It did not affect the farmers nearly as much as the businesses and the laborers, yet lumber shipments ceased for a while.

The first brick store building was erected in 1893 by Ritger, Mueller,and Seubert here on the corner of Fifth and Main Streets. The bricks were hauled by horses and wagons from the Edgar Brick Yard. The store was operated for many years by August Ritger,long time president of the village and owner and operator of the first creamery in Marathon County which he built just west of the store. After the store was gutted by fire in 1936, it was remodeled and became known as Straub's store, having the first apartments in Marathon on the second floor.

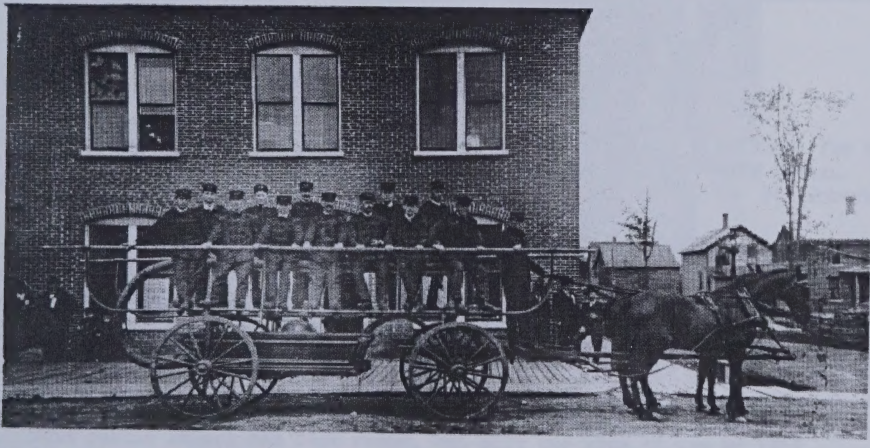
Philip Menzner, Sr. built his saw and planing mill in 1894 on the east side of Main Street on the south river bank. This mill was completely destroyed by fire in about 1911, at which time the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Co. brought a fire engine from Wausau on a flat car to save the village from further fire losses. The mill was rebuilt, and is still in operation being one of the very few large mills left in the county.

On May 18, 1898 a storm went through the Towns of Rib Falls and Stettin, felled much timber, unroofed and destroyed houses and barns, and killed August Hanke,his wife and son, and injured others in the destruction of the home.

By 1900 the pine timber supply in this area had nearly disappeared, so that the Curtis & Yale Co. of Wausau had to import most of its pine for windows and doors from the West.

In 1901 typhoid fever epidemic did not claim any lives at Marathon as all six who had the fever survived.

A new two store village hall was built in block 25 around 1904 at a cost of about $35,000. Today it is still used as the Village Hall and also houses the fire trucks.



FIRE DEPARTMENT HAND PUMPER & NEW VILLAGE HALL EARLY 1900's-- Fire Department members, from left to right: Philip Ritger. Joe Ueberlacker, August Wandke, Leonard Lemmer, Joe Sonnentag, Joe Lemmer, NO-Name, Sidney Clark, Henry Stanke, George Ritger, Alex Lemmer, Bill Ebersold, Arthur Akey. Frank Gates and Mike Duerstein on the right.

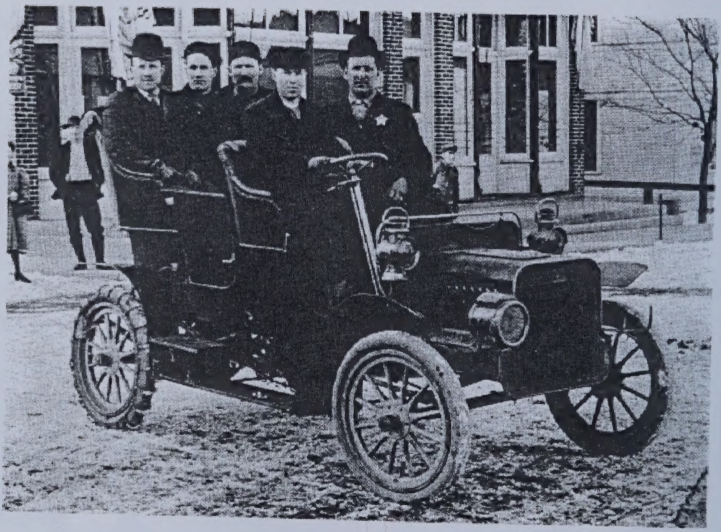
CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1860-1912

The first paper was edited in Marathon in 1906 by a John Buman, brother of Tony Buman, Sr. He then was succeeded by Frank Leuschen whose paper in 1908 was called "The Marathon Times" consisting of eight pages devoted to advertising and local news.

Banking service came to Marathon in 1905, when Mayor August Ritger organized the State Bank of Marathon City in his store on Fifth and Main Street. His son, George, is still its vice-president and cashier in its new location in block 31.

The Catholic Order of Foresters Court was organized in 1906 by 18 members. At its golden anniversary it had 449 members,with two of the charter members still present.

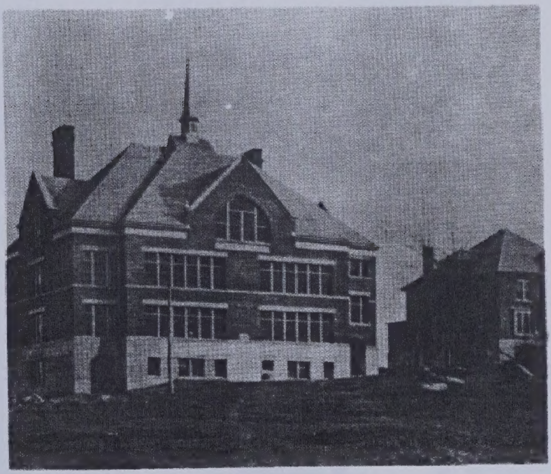
Although there had been telephones in the village since 1900,in 1906 the Marathon City Telephone Co. was incorporated. The exchange was variously located, from the Weber Building, the Trauba Building, the Conrad Lang Building, and the Miller Building, all on Main Street. In 1928 the Commonwealth Telephone Co. purchased the local corporation, and in the 1950's it was changed to the General Telephone Company. In October of 1954 the automatic dial system was installed in this community.



FIRST CAR IN MARATHON bought by J. Kirstein from the Curtiss Automobile Co. for $750.00 in 1908. It was a 2 cylinder, 22 H. P. chain drive car. In the above picture are, front seat: J. Kirstein, O. Kutz, back seat: H. Stanke, W. Prehn, no-name.

CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1860-1912

The Catholic Parish at Marathon grew with the community. The first little mission church built in 1863 on Main Street between 4th and 5th Streets was replaced in 1875 by a larger structure having a school in the basement. It was on Sixth Street East of Main.



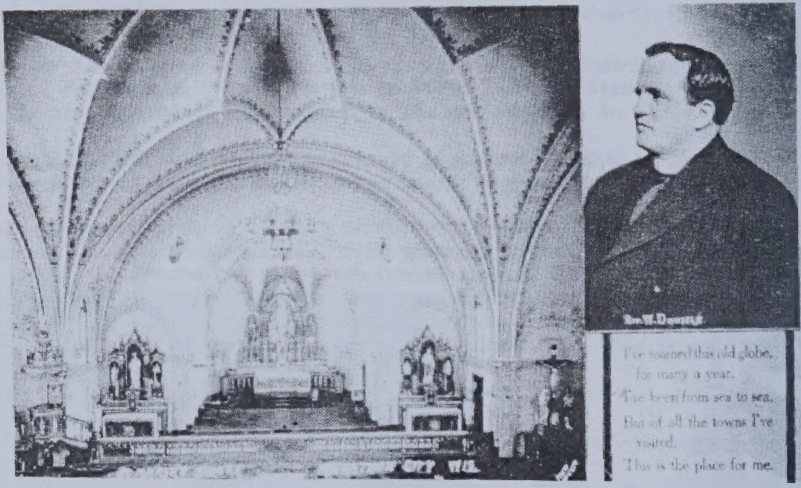
Father Winand Daniels succeeded Father Hanses in 1904. He was a builder for the future of his beloved German Congregation, and insisted that it remain German. By the end of 1905, the Parish had a new $11,000 convent and a $27,000 St. Joseph's School in block 58 on Market Street.

In 1910 the new church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was built in the same block at a cost of $65,000.00. On the occassion of Father Daniel's twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination,the Parish,in 1921 built him a spacious rectory.

The new solid brick Public School was completed in 1910 at a cost of $10,375.40. It replaced the old school on top of the hill East of Main Street which was auctioned off in 1909 for $915. The new building was in block 42 located between Fourth and Fifth Streets two blocks east of Main being block 40 originally platted for a Market Square. This public school had four rooms, but only two were in use by 1912.

There was a flood in 1912 caused by the fall of 4½ to 11½ inches of rain on July 24, 1912.

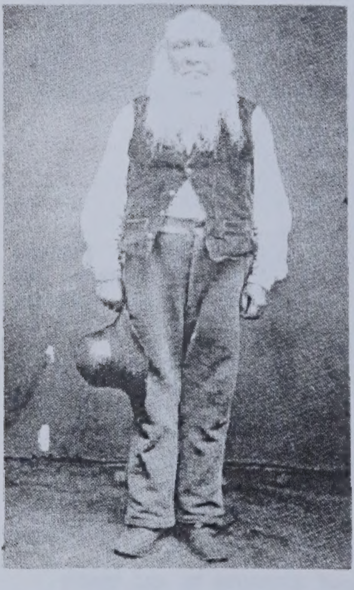
CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1860-1912



I've roamed this old globe,
for many a year,
I've been from sea to sea,
But of all the towns I've
visited,
This is the place for me.

INTERIOR OF ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND FATHER DANIELS

---------PIONEERS---------



Anton Kester

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Schilling

The Marathon of 1912

Let us pause here to see what we have at Marathon after about fifty years of existence. We chose to stop in 1912 because it was at this time that Judge Marchetti wrote his book,"The History of Marathon County",on which we based much of our data.

There were six passenger and express trains arriving daily in Marathon at this time. From either direction there were two in the forenoon, two in the afternoon and two "limiteds" at night. There were five outgoing and four incoming mail services on these trains.

Industries included the following:
The saw and planing mill of Menzners built in 1894;
The grist mill, also grinding rye flour built by Fricke in 1870;
The brewery, built in 1881;
A creamery and cheese factor operated by A. Anderson;
The Wausau Canning Company's viner;
An excelsior mill west of the brewery; and
Pauly and Pauly Cheese Company had built a store plant in 1909.

Business and professions in Marathon were represented as follows:
There was a Volunteer Fire Department housed in the modern two story Village hall built in 1904;
The State Bank of Marathon organized in 1905, George Ritger, Cashier
The Post Office with Philip Menzner, Sr. as Postmaster:
The Marathon City Times since 1906, with Frank Leuschen as editor;
Three Physicians and Surgeons; Doctors Harder, Barber, and Betcher;
One dentist named O. W. Busse;
Four General Merchandise stores operated by Frank Lieg, A. Ritger, George Lang and A. Silverman;
A Hardware & Furniture, Building Material, and Tin Shop by the Lemmer Brothers, Anton, Leon, and Joseph;
A hardware, Furniture, and Undertaking by Fred Prehn;
Another Funeral Director and Undertaker in a furniture store by Edward Seuer, in the present Brill Building;
Robert Ubain had a boot and shoe store near the top of the hill;
Dr. Barber had the village drug store;
The pump maker and repair man was Martin Gillmann;
Another shoe maker was Anton Koehler;
A Taylor shop was kept by Fred Leisinger since 1896;
Bakery and Confectionary stores were kept by Charles Trauba and Vincent Hoesle;
Millinery and Fancy Work were supplied by Mrs. Tressie Bussee and also by the Misses Mary and Anna Urbain;
The Butcher shop was operated by Herman Vetter;
Blacksmith and Wagon shops by A. Busse and John Hanke;
Grain and Farm Produce was purchased by the McEachron Company Warehouse;
Kilian Strachota bought and shipped cattle;
Hotels included two: The Old Weiss Hotel in Block 42 conducted by Jacob Sonnentag; and the Farmers' Home in Block 5 conducted by Robert Hanke; and
The Livery, which supplied horses and buggies for transportation in to the country was operated by Collins and Akey.

CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1912-1957

In 1913 the first garage for automobiles was built by Reinhold Genger and Brothers on corner of Second and Main Streets. They handled Mitchel Cars.

Prohibition of alcoholic drinks followed the War in 1918,and "Near Beer" and Root Beer just did not satisfy the German thirst for the good old Lager. "Moonshiners" came into existence and many residents made their own "Home-Brew". The brewery was closed after its Near-beer was found to contain too much alcohol. Taverns which sold "Moonshine" and there were many, were frequently raided by the revenue men. By 1932 the 18th ammendment was repealed and the tavern came into existence.

On April 6, 1917 the United States became involved in a War against Germany and 128 young men of the Marathon area, many of German descent, had to serve in the armed forces to defend our country. Liberty Loans,from the First to the Fifth were floated at home to help pay for the War. Flour and sugar rationing were in effect and sugar sold for as much as $33. per hundred pounds. The "Flu" or Spanish Influenza, claimed lives of civilians at home and the soldiers here and in the trenches in France.

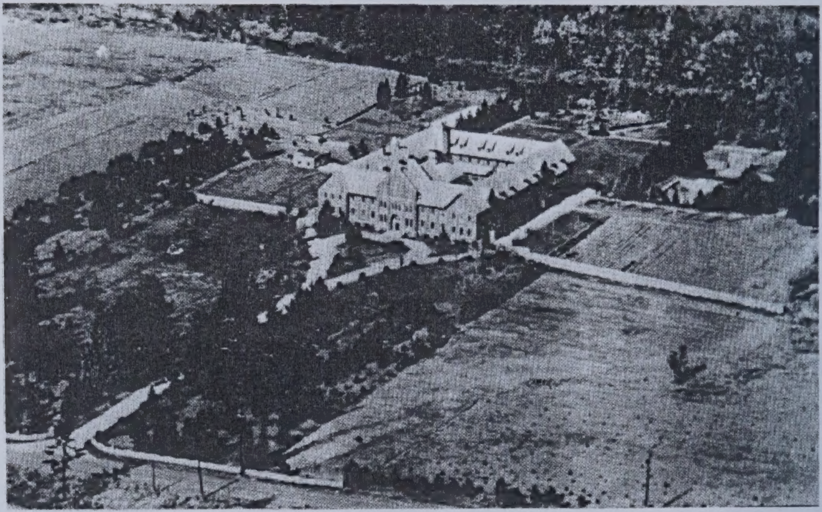
WORLD WAR I VETERANS FROM THE MARATHON AREA

NAVY

Baumann, Alfred J.
Baumann, Rudolph I.
Busko, Frank J.
Cichon, Joseph P.
Deininger, Raymond A.
Filtzkowski, Stanley
Gillmann, Karl W.
Helke, Alfred F.
Koehler, John E.
Lemmer, Melvin A.
Lieg, Sylvester F.
Menzner, Fred A.
Muschinski, Anton
Opperman, John L.
Sailer, Xavier F.
Trauba, Carl C.
Trauba, Norbert C.
Zweck, George

ARMY

Ahlquist, Arthur
Artus, Willie
Barthels, Robert
Bauer Fred'k
Baumann, Roman
Baumann, Carl
Baumann, Henry W.
Bellke, Martin C.
Berens, Ernest J
Berens, Otto
Berg, Leo N.
Buchberger, Alfred
Buchberger, Roman
Buchberger, Clarence
Cichon, Julius
Dalsky, John R.
Dalsky, Alex B.
Dalsky, John M.
Dahlke, Michael
Duranceau, Archie
Eisenmann, Julius
Erdmann, Carl E.
Fenhouse, Fred J.
Fischer, Bud
Focks, Peter
Rranz, Henry B.
Gerhartz, Peter
Gertschen, Edward
Greiner, Joseph
Grundy, Walter J.
Hack, George J.
Haesle, Leo M.
Handrick, Patrick
Heil, Benjamin
Heil, Leo P.
Hilber, Edward J.
Hilber, Louis B.
Hoffmann, Joseph A.
Jagodzinski, Leo A.
Jakubowski, Peter
Jeske, John A.
Kage, Henry
Kamenick, Frank J.
Kordus, Lawrence
Kordus, Paul F.
Krueger, Bernard
Lang, Harry G.
Lang, Otto
Lang, Philip G.
Langenhahn, Raymond
LaVick, Charles M.
Lemmer, Henry
Lubcke, Otto F.
Lueck, Frederick
Maniske, Martin
Menzner, Elmer
Mohr, Carl
Mohr, Frank
Moser, George
Mucha, Alfred
Muschinski, John A.
Oelke, Herman O.
Opperman, Louis J.
Osterbrink, Robert
Ott, Fred
Pagel, Edward
Pospychala, Joseph
Reuter, Reinhold
Ritger, August J.
Ritger, Joseph G.
Schneiders, Edwin F.
Schultz, Leonard R.
Seliger, George
Seliger, Henry
Seliger, Jacob
Seliger, Anton
Seubert, August
Seubert, Edward J.
Skrzypchak, Anton
Seigwarth, Louis
Spatz, Walter
Splettxtozer, Frank
Stieber, Roman
Sulzer, Ludwig
Szemborski, John
Szuminski, Frank
Thurs, Elmer
Vaubel, Lawrence
Vetter, Bruno
Vetter, Rudolph L.
Wachholz, Walter
Wagner, Anthony
Wagner, Clemens
Weisenberger, George
Weisenberger, William
Wentzke, Edmund
Wenzel, AntonT.
Wilde, Alfred N.
Wilde, Edwin C.
Wilichowski, August
Wilichowski, Frank
Wilichowski, Joseph
Wilke, Leo R.
Witberler, Leo
Witberler, Otto
Wåkatsch, Frank A.
Wokatsch, William
Wolf, Elmer
Zomske, John D.
Wolfe, John D.



St. Anthony's Monastery was built by the Capuchin Fathers east of the village in 1918 and at present about seventy of these bearded followers of St. Francis in their brown frocks of penance live a life of poverty, prayer, self-denial and study within its walls;

The Merchants and Farmers State Bank was incorporated in 1919 with a Capitol of $40,000. It was liquidated in 1955.

The Marathon Concrete Works was organized in 1923 by Charles Kirstein,Geo.Ritger, John Wadzinski and Anton Bauman,Sr. It made concrete blocks,tile and culverts until the depression ended it in the 1930's.

The 1920's marked the universal acceptance of the Automobile as a means of transportation. State Highway No. 16 went through the village north and south. It was quite an accomplishment for any car to make the hill in high gear.

The Radio or wireless was fast becoming popular and changed from the battery operated to the 110 volt house current. Wausau obtained its first local broadcasting station (WSAU) in 1940.

In 1930 State Trunk Highway No. 29 was built and improved with concrete from Eau Claire to Green Bay, boardering the North village limits of Marathon. Old Highway 16 lost its number and the part of it running north and south through the village became No. 107. This was now paved from the south village limits to new No. 29. The old 1887 steel bridge was replaced by the Highway Department with a longer and higher structure mostly of concrete.This road improvement was celebrated by pavement dances on Main Street of the Village.

A brick Gymnasium was added tothe south side of the original high school building. It was about 50' by 85' with a small stage and a balcony and a 39¼ by 77' playing floor in the basement which was twenty four feet high. above this was a large assembly room and two class rooms. The cost of the addition was $42,053.96.

CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1912-1957

There had been National depressions in the 1870's and 90's, but that of the 1930's really hit the farmers and villagers. Prices and employment dropped, people came out of the cities to work for their board. Farmers received as low as eight cents per pound for cheese, and the drought of 1935 made farming still worse. The Banks were all closed to reorganize in 1932 by Government order, as many had been ruined or nearly so by "runs" of withdrawals. The PWA, CWA AND CCC (Public Works Administration, Civil Works Administration and Civilian Conservations Corps) were organized by the National Government as relief measures for farmers and city people. The farmers in this area even joined the State wide "milk-strike" and withheld their products from the market in an effort to obtain higher prices.

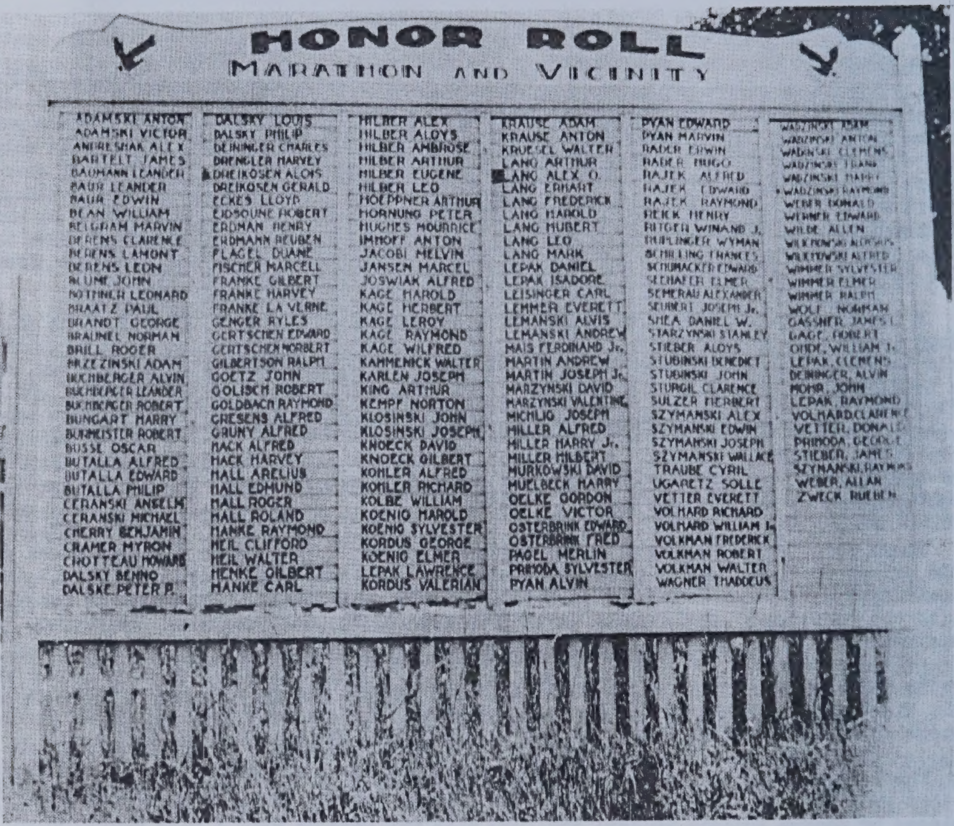
A benefit of the depression to the Village of Marathon came in 1935 when the Village installed the water and sewer. Its functions began in July with the main laterals laid and with an investment of $62,549.25 for water and $32,400.00 for sewer, or a total of $94,949.35. It was financed by a general municipal bond issue, and a $33,970.76 in Federal aid to relieve unemployment. It started to operate with 46 consumers, at the beginning of 1957 it had 231 consumers; 27468 feet of water piping, two wells, pumping equipment and shelters, giving the Water Department total assets of $124,143.88. The sewer department was separated from the Water Department in 1939 and operated by the village board.

There were two major fires in the village in 1936. The Ritger & Bingen Store on the corner of Fifth and Main Streets would have been completely destroyed had it not been flooded by water available from the new water department. The Catholic School, with the carpenters' tools still in it from remodeling, was completely destroyed. It was replaced in 1937 by St. Mary's School.

By 1939 demands by the State, and local farm people, and shortage of classrooms in the High School brought about the addition of an Agricultural shop and three classrooms on the north side of the old school building. The cost was $35,500.

The last major fire (we hope) was the destruction of the former Lemmer Hardware store in 1940. It had been occupied by the Semon Fair Store since 1936. It was replaced by George Ugoretz in 1941 and 1942 with the present Fair & Feed Supply Store.

The 1940's were marked by the defense program by which the depression was ended and World War II started. While it brought prosperity to many, the sorrows it inflicted on other families made it a sad decade. Four lost their lives in the defense of freedom of our country. Scrap metal drives, War Bonds, food and tire rationing, gasoline and fuel oil ration stamps and shortages were prevalent at home.



HONOR ROLL

MARATHON AND VICINITY

ADAMSKI ANTON
ADAMSKI VICTOR
ANDRESHAK ALEX
BARTELT JAMES
BAUMANN LEANDER
BAUR LEANDER
BAUR EDWIN
BEAN WILLIAM
BELGRAM MARVIN
BERENS CLARENCE
BERENS LAMONT
BERENS LEON
BLUME JOHN
BOTTNER LEONARD
BRAATZ PAUL
BRANDT GEORGE
BRAUNEL NORMAN
BRILL ROGER
BRZEZINSKI ADAM
BUCHBERGER ALVIN
BUCHBERGER LEANDER
BUCHBERGER ROBERT
BUNGART HARRY
BURMEISTER ROBERT
BUSSE OSCAR
BUTALLA ALFRED
BUTALLA EDWARD
BUTALLA PHILIP
CERANSKI ANSELM
CERANSKI MICHAEL
CHERRY BENJAMIN
CRAMER MYRON
CHOTTEAU HOWARD
DALSKY BENNO
DALSKE PETER P.

DALSKY LOUIS
DALSKY PHILIP
DEININGER CHARLES
DRENGLER HARVEY
DREIKOSEN ALOIS
DREIKOSEN GERALD
ECKES LLOYD
EIDSOUNE ROBERT
ERDMAN HENRY
ERDMANN REUBEN
FLAGEL DUANE
FISCHER MARCELL
FRANKE GILBERT
FRANKE HARVEY
FRANKE LA VERNE
GENGER RYLES
GERTSCHEN EDWARD
GERTSCHEN NORBERT
GILBERTSON RALPH
GOETZ JOHN
GOLISCH ROBERT
GOLDBACH RAYMOND
GRESENS ALFRED
GRUNY ALFRED
HACK ALFRED
HACK HARVEY
HALL ARELIUS
HALL EDMUND
HALL ROGER
HALL ROLAND
HANKE RAYMOND
HEIL CLIFFORD
HEIL WALTER
HENKE GILBERT
HANKE CARL

HILBER ALEX
HILBER ALOYS
HILBER AMBROSE
HILBER ARTHUR
HILBER EUGENE
HILBER LEO
HOEPPNER ARTHUR
HORNUNG PETER
HUGHES MOURRICE
IMHOFF ANTON
JACOBI MELVIN
JANSEN MARCEL
JOSWIAK ALFRED
KAGE HAROLD
KAGE HERBERT
KAGE LEROY
KAGE RAYMOND
KAGE WILFRED
KAMMENICK WALTER
KARLEN JOSEPH
KING ARTHUR
KEMPF NORTON
KLOSINSKI JOHN
KLOSINSKI JOSEPH
KNOECK DAVID
KNOECK GILBERT
KOHLER ALFRED
KOHLER RICHARD
KOLBE WILLIAM
KOENIG HAROLD
KOENIG SYLVESTER
KORDUS GEORGE
KOENIG ELMER
LEPAK LAWRENCE
KORDUS VALERIAN

KRAUSE ADAM
KRAUSE ANTON
KRUESEL WALTER
LANG ARTHUR
LANG ALEX O.
LANG ERHART
LANG FREDERICK
LANG HAROLD
LANG HUBERT
LANG LEO
LANG MARK
LEPAK DANIEL
LEPAK ISADORE
LEISINGER CARL
LEMMER EVERETT
LEMANSKI ALVIS
LEMANSKI ANDREW
MAIS FERDINAND Jr.
MARTIN ANDREW
MARTIN JOSEPH Jr.
MARZYNSKI DAVID
MARZYNSKI VALENTINE
MICHLIG JOSEPH
MILLER ALFRED
MILLER HARRY Jr.
MILLER HILBERT
MURKOWSKI DAVID
MUELBECK HARRY
OELKE GORDON
OELKE VICTOR
OSTERBRINK EDWARD
OSTERBRINK FRED
PAGEL MERLIN
PRIHODA SYLVESTER
PYAN ALVIN

PYAN EDWARD
PYAN MARVIN
RADER ERWIN
RADER HUGO
RAJEK ALFRED
RAJEK EDWARD
RAJEK RAYMOND
REICK HENRY
RITGER WINAND J.
RUPLINGER WYMAN
SCHILLING FRANCES
SCHUMACKER EDWARD
SECHAFER ELMER
SEMERAU ALEXANDER
SEUBERT JOSEPH Jr.
SHEA DANIEL W.
STARZYNSKI STANLEY
STIEBER ALOYS
STUBINSKI BENEDICT
STUBINSKI JOHN
STURGIL CLARENCE
SULZER HERBERT
SZYMANSKI ALEX
SZYMANSKI EDWIN
SZYMANSKI JOSEPH
SZYMANSKI WALLACE
TRAUBE CYRIL
UGARETZ SOLLE
VETTER EVERETT
VOLHARD RICHARD
VOLHARD WILLIAM Jr.
VOLKMAN FREDERICK
VOLKMAN ROBERT
VOLKMAN WALTER
WAGNER THADDEUS

WADZINSKI ADAM
WADZINSKI ANTON
WADINSKI CLEMENS
WADZINSKI FRANK
WADZINSKI HARRY
WADZINSKI RAYMOND
WEBER DONALD
WERNER EDWARD
WILDE ALLEN
WILKOWSKI ALOYSIUS
WILKOWSKI ALFRED
WIMMER SYLVESTER
WIMMER ELMER
WIMMER RALPH
WOLF NORMAN
GASSNER JAMES L.
GAGE, ROBERT
ODDE, WILLIAM J.
LEPAK, CLEMENS
DEININGER, ALVIN
MOHR, JOHN
LEPAK, RAYMOND
VOLHARD,CLARENCE
VETTER, DONALD
PRIHODA, GEORGE
STIEBER, JAMES
SZYMANSKI,RAYMOND
WEBER, ALLAN
ZWECK RUEBEN

CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1912-1957

After World War II in 1946 the Alois Dreikosen Post # 469, of the American Legion was organized in Marathon, it now has 139 members. The American Legion Auxiliary, to aid the veteran and his family, was organized in 1949, and now has 50 members.

MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES DURING THE KOREAN CONFLICT
JUNE 25, 1950 to JULY 27, 1953

Adamski, Philip
Adamski, Leroy
Ahlquist, Rueben
Artus, James
Bartelt, John
Baumann, Leander
Beilke, Merlin
Beilke, Stanley
Berens, James
Blaubach, Alvin
Bloom, Christie
Blume, Marvin
Braunel, Merlin
Braunel, Wilmer
Buchberger, Arvin
Buchberger, Claude
Burish, Marlyn
Butalla, Harold
Deininger, Sylvester
Drengler, Lauryn
Fischer, William, Jr.
Flagel, Duane
Franke, Donald
Gage, Gerald
Gacke, Thomas
Gertschen, Dennis
Gertschen, Edward
Goetz, James
Hack, Harry
Hack, Rufus
Hafner, William
Hall, Roland
Hoffmann, Alvin
Hoffmann, Delmar
Heise, Charles
Imhoff, Richard
Jansen, Alvin
Kirstein, Ronald
Krautkramer, Gordon
Krautkramer, Jack
Krautkramer, Leon
Krautkramer, Lyle
Krautkramer, Wallace
Kruesel, Walter
Lang, Elroy
Lang, Orville
Lepak, Cyril
Lepak, Leander
Lepak, Myron
Lepak, Rueben
Loy, Charles
Loy, James
Menzner, Philip H.
Mohr, Henry
Morgan, David
Morgan, Robert
Muelbeck, Leo
Oelke, James
Ryan, Alvin
Ritger, Philip
Ruplinger, Ivan
Ruplinger, Lavern
Seliger, Arnold
Seliger, Cyril
Seliger, Lawrence
Seliger, Melvin
Sonnentag, Wallace
Stieber, Charles
Stieber, James
Szuminski, John
Vetter, Everett
Vetter, Judith
Wadzinski, Ivan
Wadzinski, Marvin
Wagner, Gordon
Wenzel, Clarence
Wilichowski, Arthur
Wimmer, Henry
Zank, Charles
Zank, Robert
Zomski, Henry
Ziegel, Elton
Zinkel, Clarence Jr.

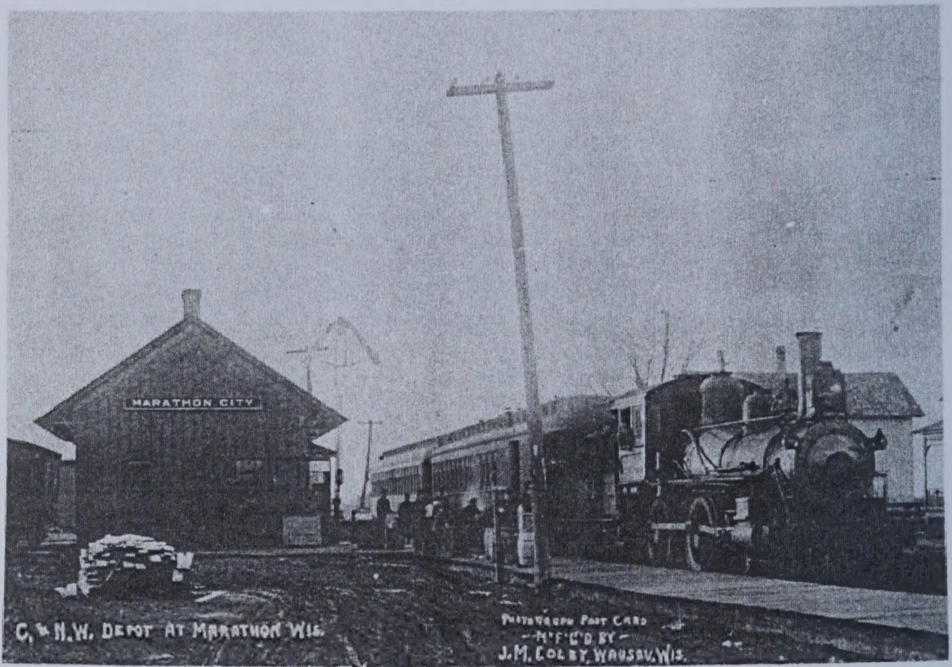
CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH 1912-1957

Public bus service into Marathon and various other small villages between Wausau and Marshfield was started and operated by Louis Rolling during 1945 and 1946, but it was soon found unprofitable and discontinued.

Friendship House, consisting of a small group of Volunteer lay workers dedicated to inseminate better relations between the negroes and the whites was in operation east of the village from 1946 to 1949.

The first television sets came to Marathon in 1952; and the closest broadcasting stations were Milwaukee and later Green Bay. Reception was not good with much snow on the black and white pictures all year around even with high antennas. In 1954 WSAU-TV at Wausau put up it's 100,000 Kilowatt Station, and many receiving sets came into this area as there was good reception with indoor atennas or "rabbit ears". The advent of television soon made the local weekly movies at the village hall unprofitable and they were discontinued.

November 19, 1954 marked the last passenger and mail train through Marathon, and with it came the end of the steam locomotive whose whistles had been heard for 63 years. Oil and gasoline had become the fuel of the diesel freight trains, and a Star Route Truck carries all the mail into Marathon.



C. & N. W. PASSENGER & MAIL TRAIN AT MARATHON CITY DEPOT

The Law which compelled school attendance until the child's age of 16; the rapid increase in childbirth since the War; the public demand and the State's insistance on a course in Homemaking; all contributed to the decision to put another addition to the High School. It was decided to convert the old gymnasium into two stories, using the upper story for Homemaking and Science laboratories, and leave the lower story as a playroom to be converted into classrooms when needed. While this was not completed until 1957, the new addition was built in 1954-'55 north of the Agricultural Addition at a cost of $160,000 complete with furnishing. It consisted of a 71' by 92' Gymnasium with a 84' by 47' playing floor, a 21' by 60' stage, a general purpose room, a band room, a classroom, a suite of offices, and shower and rest rooms.

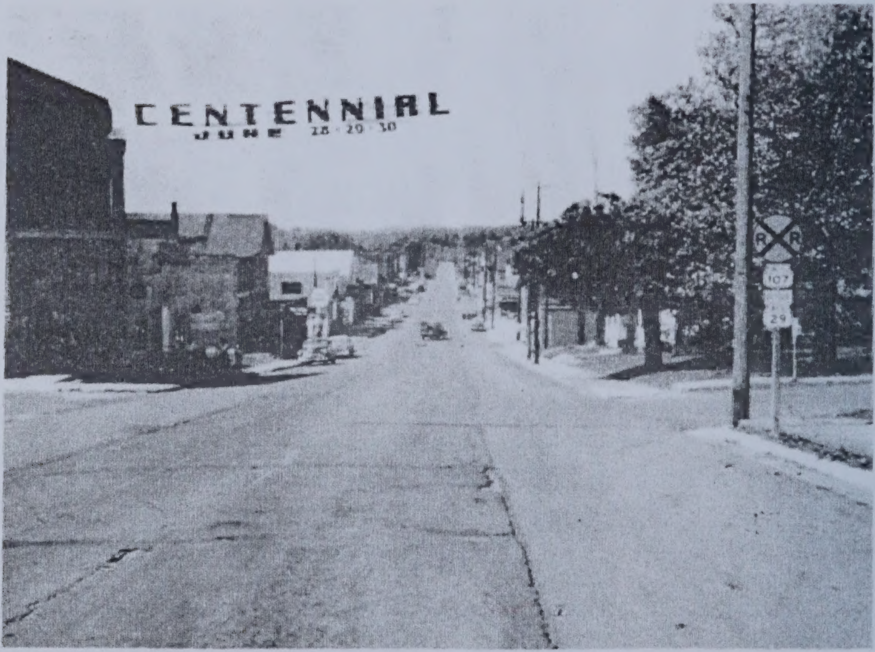
HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION BUILT IN 1954-55, CLASSROOMS, OFFICE & GYMNASIUM

MARATHON IN 1957 - AFTER 100 YEARS

Let us see what we have in the Village of Marathon after 100 years. It is usually just called Marathon, and is situated near the center of Marathon County, which is very close to the center of the beautiful state of Wisconsin. The large dense forests from which it emerged, have disappeared.

The village comprising 72 blocks, besides the outlots on the north side, lies on the north slope of the hill with the Big Rib River flowing east at the foot of the hill. A few lofty pines still stand, but most of the forest primeval has been replaced with houses, and soft maple, poplar, elm and box elder planted by the settlers. It is a beautiful site even at night with the bright lights outlining the streets, and tourists traveling on Highway 29 just north of the village frequently stop in saying that it looks like a Swiss or Alpine village.

The 6.5 miles of streets are all paved with a hard gravel-oil mixture to keep them from washing out on the hill, and make them mud proof. The Main Street is concrete from curb to gutter, and cement sidewalks line both sides of it. Curb and gutter and some sidewalks are at this time being installed on some side streets. The village has its own snow plow to keep the streets open. New street lights were installed at all intersections in 1955 to replace the old ones in use since 1919.



MAIN STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT - 1957 - TAKEN NORTH OF 5th STREET

MARATHON IN 1957 - AFTER 100 YEARS

There are at present 205 houses in the village, 37 having been built since World War II. They include ranch-type, one-and-a-half story and two story structures. Apartments are rented out in some of the larger dwellings as well as above some of the business places. Most of the buildings are of wood-frame structure, with wood, asbestos,or plaster siding. A few have brick, natural stone or aluminum siding. White paint is still predominent, while a few have pastel or darker colors on the outside.

Trees of many kinds, and shrubbery and flowers adorn every occupied lot.

Of the 257 familes or householders in the village,197 own their homes, and 60 are renters. The population of the village based on the 1950 census is 853.

The average three-bedroom home cost about $12,000 to complete at this time. Taxes on a home range from $80 to $300, the rate being .025 per $1000 value. The assessed valuation of the village is $2513,656.10 and the equalized valuation is $2,423,500 composed of $1,937,200 for real estate and $484,300 for personal property.

A one bedroom apartment rents for approximately $30 per month, a two bedroom apartment for $35 and a three bedroom home rents for $45.

The village employs two full-time men who also serve as Marshals; in addition to keeping order and safety,they repair the streets and maintain the water and sewerage plants.

Modern plumbing is in every home with very few exceptions, and furnace heat with automatic coal or oil feed has steadily increased since the beginning of the 1940's. But there are still many space heaters with oil and a few with coal and wood fuel. It is expected that shortly bottled propane gas will be used for heating also. Cooking has turned to gas and electricity, and automatic gas and electric and oil water heaters have become quite universal.
hea

The village has two wells 86 feet in depth with a capacity of 350 to 400 gallons of good water per hour. The water is pumped through the mains to a storage tower on the top of the hill near the cemetary giving it a continuous pressure. The sewerage disposal plant is on the south river bank near the east village limits, and is in dire need of modernizing.

Garages for most of the 310 automobiles registered in the village are on nearly every occupied lot. These cars are mostly modern, brightly multicolored powerful up to 300 horsepower gasoline engined machines.

Many descendents of the original settlers still live in this area after 100 years some operating the farms cut out of the wilderness by their great grandfathers.While the original settlers were all German and Catholics,now nearly every European nationality and several religious denominations are represented.As late as the 1930's German was the common language in the community (excepting Cassel where Polish predominated) but now there are few children who can speak anything but English.

Some of the residents of the village are retired from the farms or from jobs.Working men who are not employed in the village commute to Wausau for employment. Many outsiders who work in Wausau have moved to Marathon because rent is cheaper. Wages vary greatly as to skill, security of job, etc. Take home pay varies from $50 to $100 per week.

MARATHON IN 1957 - AFTER 100 YEARS

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church is situated near the south bank of the river, two blocks west of Main Street. It is a frame church building with a single tower, having been built in 1889. The parish has 255 members, and the present pastor is the Rev. Gustav Krause, since 1949.

The following members of St.Matthew's Congregation have entered Ministery: Luther, Donald and Paul Kolander, while five others are now engaged in teaching Parochial schools. They are: Alfred and Wilmer Gresens, Ruth and Mae Langenhahn and Katherine Krause Frohmader.

St. Mary's Parish has the Rev. Monsignor Wenzel Multerer as pastor since 1945, and Rev. William Nikolai as a new assistant. There are nine Franciscan Sisters from La Crosse and one lay teacher conducting classes in the eight room school erected in 1937. Over 300 pupils of the community attend, and there are facilities for hot lunches for both parochial and public school children. The Parish has 1600 members.

The following young folks of the Parish have entered the Priesthood or religious life:

Rev. Joseph M. Baur
Rev. Julius Lemmer
Rev. Cornelius Schmitz
Rev. Felix Hoffmann
Rev. Herbert Hoffmann
Rev. Hugo Kopf
Rev. Aloysius Baumann
Rev. Donald Wilger
Rev. Leo J. Lang
Rev. Leonard Stieber
Msgr. Hugo Meisekothen
Rev. Edwin Knauf
Rev. Norbert Bingen
Rev. Sylvester Harter O.S.B.
Rev. Emmet Hoffmann, O.F.M. Cap.
Rev. August Seubert, O.F.M. Cap.
Rev. Lyle Peyovich, O.F.M. Cap.
Rev. Otto Thienel, O.F.M. Cap.
Brother Lucius Thienel, O.F.M. Cap.
Brother Arnold Sauter, O.F.M. Cap.
Brother Thomas Imhoff (Trappist)

Among the Sisters of the Divine Savior are:

M. Marcilline (Philomena Ritger)
M. Rose Ann (Rosile Ritger)
M. Beatrice (LaVern Burish)
M. Carol Ann (Grace Imhoff)
M. George (Phyllis Hoffmann)
M. Caroline (Elsie Imhoff)
M. Michaeline (Doris Wisnewski)

Among the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration are Sister:

M. Bonavita (Caroline Schmidt)
M. Amadea (Mary Imhoff)
M. Everildis (Anna Schilling)
M. Alphonsa (Cecelia Wagner)
M. Maranda (Agnes Schmitz)
M. Disma (Regina Sauter)
M. Fentana (Theresa Werner)
M. Dorinda (Frances Sauter)
M. Rosiba (Elizabeth Thienel)
M. Beatina (Magdelen Hilber)
M. Paulita (Olive Sauter)
M. Alfredine (Magdelen Richard)
M. Romilda (Laura Sauter)
M. Edburga (Magdalene Knauf)
M. Everildis (Marian Eck)
M. Ann Frances (Marie Martinson)
M. Gloria (Mary Ellen Huebsch)
M. Mary LaVern (Loyola Wilichowski)
M. Benedicta (Eleanora Volm)
M. Romaulda (Laura Schilling)
M. Casma (Katherine Eck)
M. Edna (Mary Wagner)
M. Clavera (Elsie Schilling)
M. Gervina (Gertrude Schilling)
M. Zittana (Mary Lang)
M. Evangela (Frances Goldbach)
M. Paulissa (Adeline Sauter)
M. Rosilda (Marie Thienel)
M. Zitana (Emma Lang)
M. Philomene (Ella Kamenick)
M. Martha (Mary Lang)
M. Carla (Loretta Baumann)
M. Margaret (Rose Heil)
M. Theodosia (Shirley Wagner)
M. Margarete Clare (Dorothy Heil)

M. BONAVITA (LENA SCHMIDT STIEBER

MARATHON IN 1957 - AFTER 100 YEARS

Besides Agriculture, Logging, Maple Syrup, Ginsing and Fur Farming, in the surrounding area, Marathon Village has other industries.

The Marathon City Brewing Co.,founded in 1881 by Stuhfouth is located on the south bank of the river three blocks west of Main Street. It survived the Prohibition years and was shaken this year by competition and lack of sales.It looks as if its new set ofofficers will revive it to last many more years. It brews several fine beers in both bottles and kegs. Average employment is twenty-two persons and the annual output is approximately 9,000 barrels. The new officers are: Fred Menzner, President, John Deininger, General Manager and Howard Ruff, Brewmaster.

The White House Milk Co.,located just south of the Brewery,is owned and operated by the A. & P. stores since 1936. It receives and prepares milk for bulk shipment to their condensing and canning plant in Manitowoc,Wis. In 1952 the plant also started making butter and powdered milk. It employes about twenty-nine men. This is the former Marathon Creamery operated by the Moersch Bros. and Bowman Dairy originally built by George Werner in 1910.

The Menzner Lumber and Supply Co. operates tne saw and planing mill established by Philip Menzner, Sr. in 1894, and rebuilt in 1911 after destruction by a fire. It is located on the South bank of the river just East of Main Street. It employes about twenty men year around and up to fifty during the sawing season. They also operate a retail yard, the former Dawley Lumber Co.,two blocks west of Main Street, where they stock a complete line of building materials. Mrs. Helen Pinter, daughter of Henry Fricke, together with her sons, Fred and Philip Menzner, carry on the operations of the mill which has been in the family over 75 years.

Sonnentag Sand and Gravel Co., located south of the river about three blocks east of Main Street makes cement and cinder building blocks. They also sell river sand and gravel and recently added Ready Mixed concrete delivery service. It was started in 1946 by Merlin Sonnentag the present owner and operator.

The Marathon Cheese Co., started by Ray Goldbach in 1952 employed four persons in the Gust Seubert farm house, turned the John Mohr garage on Market Street into a shop for cutting and packaging cheese under 100 different labels for stores throughout the country. In 1955 he built a large cement block plant east of the village limits for this purpose. Employment is about ninety persons, mostly women.

Coming across the large bridge going south up the hill we now find the following business establishments on the east side of Main Street:

Schoeder's Tavern formerly the Farmer's Home Tavern and Boarding House was built by F. X. Linder in the 1880's. It is now operated by Andy Schoeder.

On the northeast corner of First and Main Streets is the Marathon Oil Company's service station built in 1928 by the present operator, Reinhold Genger. He also has a bulk gasoline and Fuel oil delivery business with storage tanks in block No. 17.

Just east of Genger's Station is Julius Zunker's Blacksmith Shop built in 1900, formerly operated by Paul Heil.

On the southeast corner of First and Main are the residence and office of doctor Clifford Kampine who succeeded Dr. Biernbaum in 1935.

A tavern south of the Physician's office is operated by Bernard Kiepke in the building formerly built by Sebastian Kirstein as a shoe repair shop and saloon.

MARATHON IN 1957 - AFTER 100 YEARS

Marathon Motors, selling and servicing Pontiac cars, is owned and operated by Joe Misudek since 1937. Located on the NE corner of Second and Main Streets it was the first garage in the village having been built by Reinhold Genger and his brother in 1913 when they sold Mitchel cars until 1919.

The Drug Store building erected by Irving Simonson on the SE corner of Second and Main Street in 1928 was sold this year to James Jeske.

A new Steak House is being erected at this time just south of the Drug Store by Ray Goldbach.

In 1950 Ray Koch took overthe Silverman General Store which has served the community since early 1900 near the middle of block No.14. He reduced the stock to dry-goods and clothing.

The V. W. Gage Co. has a General Merchandise store in the same block since 1921 in the George Drengler store building which was erected in the 1890's.

The original Drengler Store building is now owned by Louis Ahlquist on the NE Corner of Main & Third streets. Besides three modern apartments on the second floor, it houses three businesses on the ground floor. They are: The Prihoda Plumbing Shop, operated by Sylvester Prihoda since 1955, the Ahlquist Bar by Mrs. Louis Ahlquist, since 1950, and the Marathon Post Office since 1946. The present Postmaster is Joseph Szymanski in charge of this second class office since 1946 and serving 232 village and 560 rural patrons. It has two rural carriers. There are four incoming and outgoing trucks of mail daily.

A block east of Main Street,being block No.22 on Market Street, is the former John Mohr Garage, now owned by Ray Goldbach.

Close to the south edge of the Railroad track on Main Street is the Nuxoll Chevrolet Garage. The former Woodman's Lodge and used as the Village Hall until 1905 was built in approximately 1898. It was taken over by Fred Nuxoll in 1918 and converted into a Buick Garage.

The Marathon Bakery is conducted by Leonard and Cy Levandoski who in 1950 converted the old Vetter Meat Market into a modern Bakery with gas heated Ovens. It was built in the early 1880's by Pleier who was the first butcher in Marathon.

The Fair and Feed Supply Store on the NE corner of Fourth and Main Streets is owned and operated by George Ugoretz since 1940, replacing the Lemmer Hardware Store which was destroyed by fire in 1940.

On the SE corner of Fourth and Main, where formerly stood the Lemmer Store Warehouse and where during World War II was erected a large bulletin board containing the names of our Service men from the Marathon area, now is the Seliger Clothing Store erected in 1951. The owner and operator is Mrs. Emma Seliger, whose father, Fred Leisinger is now the village's oldest resident, being 89 years old. He operated the village tailor shop since 1896 when he rented eight rooms in the present Post Office building for $5 per month.

In the rear of the Seliger building is the office of Dr.James Makowski, our local Dentist since 1953.

Conrad Lang,for many years the local well driller, which work is still carried on by his son Hubert, lives in the old St.Mary's Parsonage built in 1895 on the NE corner of Fifth and Main Streets.

MARATHON IN 1957 - AFTER 100 YEARS

2nd Street West

Fred Leisinger, aged 90,
Marathon's Oldest Resident.

Main Street from 5th St. North

Three blocks east of Lang,M. J. Wagner houses his trucks used in hauling and logging operations. "You Call-We Haul" is his motto.

The Print Shop, publishing the "Marathon Times" a weekly four-page newspaper, and specializing in job printing included the off-set printing in this booklet, is owned by Alfred Gertschen since 1957. This is in the old building built in 1867 by John Blume as a store. Later it contained the Postoffice.

In the last block near the top of the hill is the brick Apartment Building of Joe Heindl. It is the former Robert Urbain Shoe Shop.

The large Mucha Dance Hall and Tavern south of the village limits were discontinued during the depression of the 1930's and removed.

On top of the hill is the village water tower and the Cemetary.

Again starting at the bridge at the foot of the hill and going south on the West side of the street we find on the river bank, Fricke's Grist mill built around 1871, now used as a store house by Menzners. Next is Fricke's old three story brick house built in 1875. It now has the Menzner Lumber Co's. mill office in the basement and a residence on each of the other two stories.

At Wolf's Lunch on the S.W. corner of First and Main, in the old Albert Schneider building erected in 1893.Gregor Wolf serves light lunches and beverages since 1948.

The Marco Farmer's Union, originally organized as the Marathon Equity Association to help the farmer get a fair price for his produce,now owns and operates a Hardware, Farm Machinery and Grocery Store on the NW corner of Second & Main Streets. This is the former Stroota Hardware building erected by Philip Menzner,Sr. in 1897. The Co-op also has a Feed and Seed warehouse and mill on West Fourth Street and a Oil Station and bulk oil plant on Pine Street. The present manager is William Zenner. There are apartments on the second floor of the store.A harness shop is operated by Leo Brandt at the north corner of the building.

Onthe SW corner of Second and Main Street is the Miller Building erected in 1899, by Philip Menzner, Sr. There are apartments on the second floor. The northwest corner housed the Merchants & Farmers Bank from 1919 to 1955, and now Elmer Wahl has a Gamble Store in this space. The South side is occupied by a Butcher shop, groceries and frozen food lockers under the supervision of the owner, Roland Miller.

A new brick building is being erected by Ray Goldbach between the Miller building and the Marathon Hotel.

The former Marathon Hotel on Main Street in Block #24 was built in 1905 by Joseph Trauba. It is now owned by Joe Heindl, Sr. and Joe and Harry Bier conduct a Tavern in the south one-half, while Mrs. Heindl keeps several retired people in the rest of the building. There is no Hotel service in the village.

Lawrence Lohr since 1944 and Clarence Novitzke 1953 are the local Funeral directors and furniture dealers under the business name of Lohr and Novitzke. They succeeded Frank Stieber in his building erected by him in block #24.

Mrs. Peyovich and son Robert,since 1946, have the soda bar and grocery store just south of the Stieber building, the only store besides the Drug Store which is still open on Sundays.

The former Busse Millinary Shop,and at one time Miller's Market, on the NW corner of Third and Main is now used by William Mellin as a Barber and Clock repair shop.

MARATHON IN 1957 - AFTER 100 YEARS

Going west along the north side of the C. & N. W. Railroad tracks, we find on the NE corner of Third and Walnut streets a dock for the Steffke and Neuendork Trucking vans for local freight.Ray Kage, since 1948, distributes the freight with his smaller truck to recipients in the village and to Edgar. Most of the local less-than-car-load-lot freight is handled by trucking companies since the railroad discontinued many of its local freight trains in 1954. There are no taxi or bus service closer to the village than Highway 29.

On the NW corner of Third and Walnut streets in the village hall,next is the village water pumping station. On the South side of the tracks on Pine Streets is the C. & N. W. Railway depot.

Westward,across from the depot, Paul Rajek's sons own and operate a feed and seed warehouse and grist mill erected in the 1890's by George Drengler, at one time the Dodge-Hooker mill back in the 1920's. Coal is another of their commodities.

Back on Main Street on the south side of the tracks we find Swede & Tony's Tavern in the old Sinderman building erected in 1885. Andrew Seubert and Tony Bumann are in charge here since 1941.

A lean-to on the south of Swede and Tony's constitutes the barber shop of Edward Fisher since 1929.

Next in block #31 comes the State Bank of Marathon City. Having started in 1905; its capitol investment has grown from $15,000 to $40,000. The total assets now are over two million. George Ritger has been its cashier since 1907, and it is one of the few banks which had no loss to patrons during the depression.

South of the Bank is a small vacant building once housing the Barber shop of Paul Busse.

The Traube building in Block #31 is not used for any business at this time, but houses two families.

Next, Roger Brill operates Brill's IGA Self-Service grocery store in the building erected by Traube in 1886. It was the Sauter Furniture & Undertaking establishment and later the Krautkramer store.

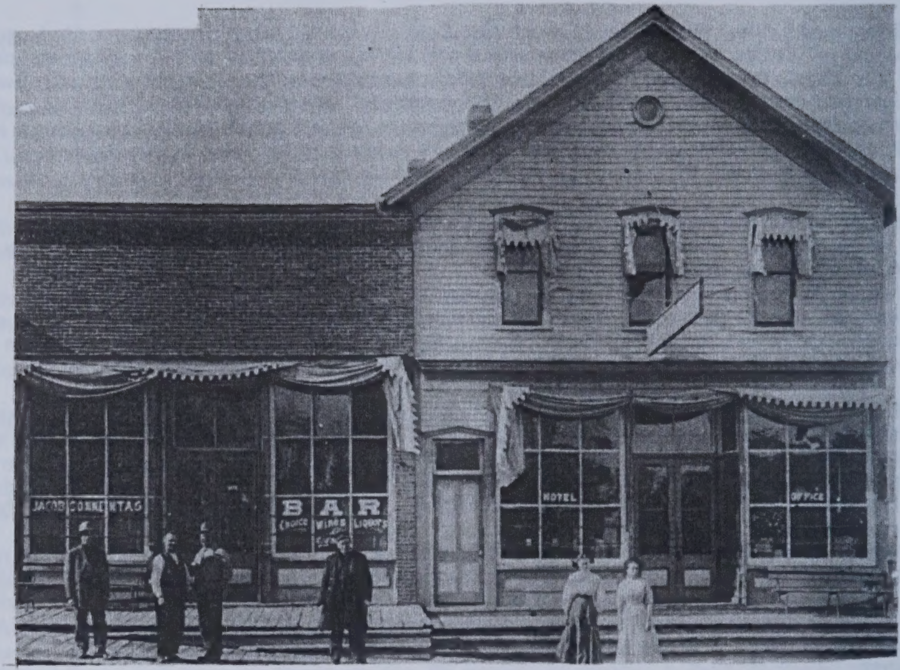
Deininger's Bar,in the Klien Building since 1936, was originally built in 1886 by Joe Klein and used as a Saloon.

Bergs Radio and Appliances operated by Elmer Berg since 1937 sells and services Radios and Television sets in the corner Klein building on Main & Fourth streets.The building put up in 1897 by Joe Klein served as a dance hall.

Three and one half blocks west of Fourth Street on the south side is the Cattle Yard of the Marathon Cooperative Shipping Association organized in 1932. Norbert Berens, our Village clerk, is the Manager.

On the SE corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets, Farm Machinery is handled by the Gertschen Implement Company, established in 1937 by Frank Gertschen and erected the new building in 1948.

Coming back to the SW corner of Fourth and Main we find Charles Deininger's Cities Service Station built in 1948.



OLD WEISS HOTEL - TODAY's BOWLING ALLEYS

Next in this Block 42 are Buchbergers Bowling Alleys and Tavern housed in the Old Weiss Hotel built in 1889 by Peter Weiss. Norbert and Rudy Buchberger are in charge, and have two apartments on the second floor.

Straubs Store owned and operated by Alfred Straub on the corner of Fifth and Main was built in 1893 as a general store by Mueller,Ritger & Seubert. Hardware, Machinery and Television business constitute their main line. It also houses the "Marathon Radio & T V Service" conducted by DuWayne Sessions. There are modern apartments on the second floor.

On the SW corner of Fifth and Main is Charles Prihoda's Shop for electrical contracting and repair work. This former Mike Baur's Building was erected in 1870's as a saloon.

Outside of the village limits across South Street we find the Headquarters of Knauf Brothers' Trucking, excavating and Gravel Service, housed in a garage built in 1950.

On the outlots north of the river Oscar Strachota & Sons are carrying on their livestock purchases started in this area by Kilian Strachota over a half century ago.

Joseph Boser,at the northermost extremity of the village limits has a modern well drilling business.

Rudy Weisenberger's Sand and Gravel pit is towards the west end of the outlots.

Several Dairies from Wausau deliver bottled pasteurized milk to the homes every other day.

BUSINESS IN MARATHON

There was no business in Marathon for many years after the first settlers came. Wausau and Mosinee were the closest shopping places. By 1867 John Blume had a little store and Anton Koester had a saloon which also contained the Post Office.

Michael Baur had a spacious house south of the village limits where a traveler or a newcomer could get a meal and a good night's lodging. Baur also was a shoemaker for the community.

In 1867-1868 Charles Klein opened a blacksmith shop south of the village and in 1868 Frank Nolton opened a wagon-making shop.

Henry Fricke in the early 1870's harnessed the Rib River to drive a grist mill and later his saw mill west of the present bridge.At this time John Linder built a large hotel and hall which later burned down;and George Drengler, who operated a coach between Marathon and Wausau, had built a store in Block #23 which still stands as the Ahlquist Building.

After John Lemmer built the first saw mill in the village in 1872 business took a better outlook. There was local employment and money coming in from the sale of lumber and timber. There were local stores, the people spent their money in the home town, and the local merchants could develop the town for the benefit of the entire community. Houses sprung up and other improvements took place. The village population grew from 150 in 1877 to 678 in 1900. As the community grew existing stores added lines and expanded into general stores, handling groceries, clothing, shoes, drygoods, hardware, seeds and feed.

Some of us still remember these friendly old stores with a barrel of mixed cream candy on one side of the door and a barrel of tobacco on the other. The ladies received a bag of candy and the men could fill their tobacco pouches after making their purchases or paying their bill. Packaged goods were rare; coffee came in large sacks and had to be ground as sold;nearly everything was in bulk including spices. But it was all quality merchandise, and with the long hours and small overhead the merchant could realize his 10¢ profit on a dollar sale.

The advent of the automobile together with lucrative advertising in the larger towns took some local people to shop at Wausau where greater variety in quality and kind were available. The mail order houses made inroads with their general catalogs which for a while contained even groceries. But considering quality and transportation costs, the home town still gave them the best buy, and the local merchant was always their friend when the customer had to buy on credit.

Gradually the stores became more specialized. Some stores had only groceries, others had dry goods and clothing, hardware,drugs, millinery,feed and seed, or farm machinery. In this way they could give their customer better services.

The depression of the 1930's and overcrowding of some line of business causeu some failures. When the village was in need of a radio repair shop, one came, and soon another, but soon both had to quit for lack of business. Two attempts of a Gamble Chain Store failed.

Local stores expanded their lines; the Lumber yard added hardware; the Drug Store added many items including house paints;the Automobile Service Stations added, sporting goods and lawn mowers; the grocery stores added kitchen hardware and fresh meats; the feed stores added handled goods. Of the less than two dozen retail stores in the village today over a dozen handle hardware.

BUSINESS IN MARATHON

Open displays and self service became popular in the early 1940's, in this area. The Fair Store & Feed Supply had the first in Marathon. The large stores in Wausau had it for several years, and in the early 1950s the Super Markets made their appearance nearer the outskirts of Wausau. The huge advertising funds at their disposal, the greater variety possible in store in more densely populated areas, together with a few leaders advertised at lower prices, is luring many Marathon people to do their shopping out of town, but surveys show that considering all items bought, there is no saving in going to the larger town. The so-called wholesale cataloges and houses are also making inroads. Many local people realize that the money they spend in Marathon comes back to them in part in the education of their children, maintenance of their churches and schools and other facilities.

The Marathon Advancement Association organized in the late 1940's succeeded in having the stores closed on Sunday mornings and remain open only on Friday night instead of Wednesday and Saturday evenings. But the Association gradually dissolved just as had an earlier attempt at a Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club in this village. At present the business men are not locally organized. Another Lions Club was organized in 1951 and at present it has twenty-three members.

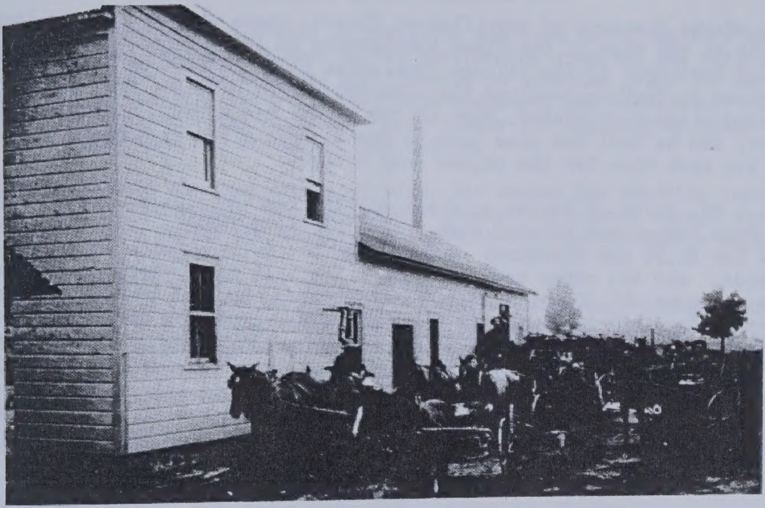
Although his profit had dwindled in many cases to less than two cents on the dollar, and his yearly pay may be less than that of most of the laborers and farmers, the businessmen are generous contributors to the welfare and developement of the community. Besides paying the highest taxes, they are the largest supporters of church school and public activities. In fact, many such groups, whether their members trade locally or not, when they put on a public affair, their first thought is to ask the business men for donations.

While the local business men keep their prices in line with those in larger towns they give you better service before and after the sale. They have been a generous group and even furnish the sidewalks we kick about when they are not kept cleaned and repaired.

Besides offering open charge accounts, they have time-payment plans for the major items, and these can be bought with little down payments and up to two years to pay.

Many outsiders realize that Marathon is a good economical place to shop, and especially folks in the community carry outthe intend of the pioneers who each obtained a lot in the village in order that he may take an interest in its development.

FIRE TRUCK AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 1957 - Frank Gertschen, Gottlieb Bartelt, Richard Seubert, Sr. and Leo Erdmann.



CREAMERY ON EAST FIRST STREET

COMPARATIVE PRICES OF COMMODITIES

	1857	1879-1884	1907-1912	1957
Village Population		150	656	853
Flour per barrel	$ 8.00	$ 4.00-4.75	$ 4.00-5.75	$ 15.00
Sugar per pound	.18	.10	.10	.10
Coffee per pound		.15 -.25	.18 -.30	1.08
Eggs per doz.		.07 -.11	.12 -.18	.30
Butter per pound		.15	.22	.68
Syrup per gal.		.50 -.60	.35	1.15
Green Tea		.60	.50	.65
Broom		.30	.50	1.25- 1.95
Shoes		1.50-2.50	2.00-4.00	8.00-20.00
Overalls		.70-1.50		3.39
Nails per pound		.03 -.05	.05	.15
Barbed wire - 80 rod			1.80	11.00
Lubricating Oil		.25		1.00
Gasoline				.32
Axe & Handle		1.50	.50	5.50
Wheat bread - 1#			.07	.20

AN HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1956 Federal taxes came to $447.00 for each man, woman and child in the U.S.A. In 1885 it was only $1.98.

"That the people justly view with alarm the reckless extravagence which prevades every department of our Federal Government, that it return to rigid economy and accountability is indispensable to arrest the systematic plunder of the public treasury by favored partisans; while the recent startling developments of fraud and corruption at the federal metropolis show that an entire change of administration is imparatively demanded!" Paragraph 6 of the Republican Platform in 1860. Sounds like speeches in our times.

202

LOGGING IN THE MARATHON AREA

In spite of the presence of magnificient forest, there was very little logging in this vicinity at the time of the first settlements in 1857. Joseph Dessert of Mosinee had some land Southwest of the village from which he could haul or float logs to his mill at Mosinee, in fact, he received the pine trees from Marathon free while the village was being cleared of timber. Most of the timber was burnt. Hardwood had little or no market, and to haul the pine logs to the nearest mills at Mosinee or Wausau by oxen, took too much time for the prices they brought.

In 1856, a Mr. Barns of Wausau, sold six million feet of pine boards at $10.50 per thousand. This lumber was floated down to St. Louis, Missouri. In 1874, basswood lumber sold for $4.50 per thousand; one half of the selling price usually had to be taken in goods, and the other half in cash. The best oak lumber, clear and twelve inches wide, brought $17.50 per thousand at Milwaukee. In 1867 to 1875 pine stumpage ranged in price from .65 to $1.50 per thousand feet, depending on location and density of growth. Hardwood lands were sold in 1869 by the bounty at .75 per acre.

DESSERT'S LOGGING CAMP -- SOUTH OF MARATHON

LOGGING IN THE MARATHON AREA

Not until Fricke built his mill in the 1870s and John Lemmer in 1882 was the market opened for the wealth of timber in the surrounding area. But the railroad had not yet come to haul it to the markets, and floating it down the river or hauling it to railroad cars at Wausau, was still very time consuming and expensive. But the settlers could now get their own logs sawed into lumber for building up their homes, and frame houses came into use instead of log houses.

The axe, five to six foot cross-cut saws, the crotch for skidding logs together, the sled, the oxen and chain comprised their logging equipment. Horses were few, but as the farms became larger and logging more profitable, they gradually supplanted the slower oxen.

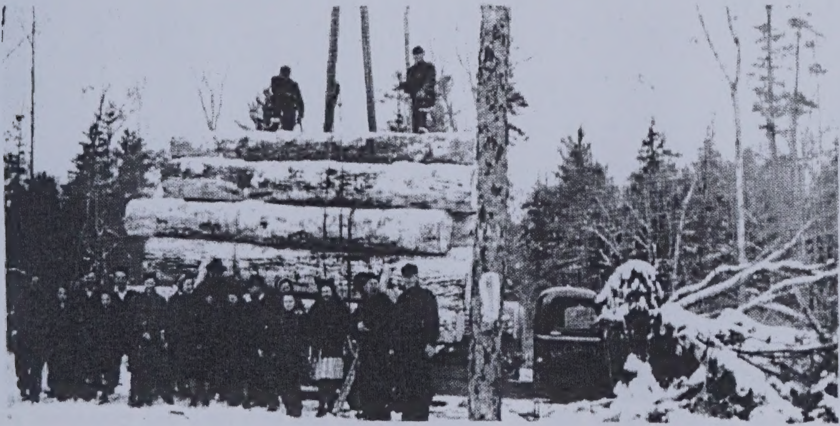
When the railroad came to town in 1891, logging became more profitable. In 1894, Philip Menzner, Sr. built his saw and planing mills. Rib Falls was also served by the railroad, and a large mill there consumed much timber. The Italian mill in the town of Emmet, the Connor Lumber Co., which built its own railroad through the forests in the Halder vicinity, the older mills along the Little Rib River northeast of here, the large Ringle and Schill mill at Edgar and the mills at Mosinee, all contributed to the fast dwindling of the timber supply in this area.

Since 1925 the Menzner Lumber Company bought tracts of timber, with or without the land, to obtain logs to keep their mill busy. When the crawler tractor came into use they made up trains of logging sleds and brought as much as six thousand feet of logs in one trip, while the average team of horses hauled about one thousand feet.

The introduction of motor trucks in the late 1920's supplanted the sleigh in log transportation. With a semi-trailer a truck would haul as much as three thousand feet of logs at once and was able to travel up to thirty miles per hour while the average team traveled about four miles per hour.

Another big change came in logging procedure after World War II, by the introduction of the gasoline driven portable chain saw. This displaced the cross-cut saw and to a great extent the axe. By this time the farm tractors and crawler tractors had also taken the place of the horses for skidding the logs together.

But the pine and hemlock had nearly disappeared and some was being shipped in from northern Wisconsin and Michigan by truck and rail to keep the mills occupied during the winter months. There has been no log sawing during the summer for several decades.



WAGNER'S LOGGING OPERATION IN THE MARATHON AREA

LOGGING IN THE MARATHON AREA

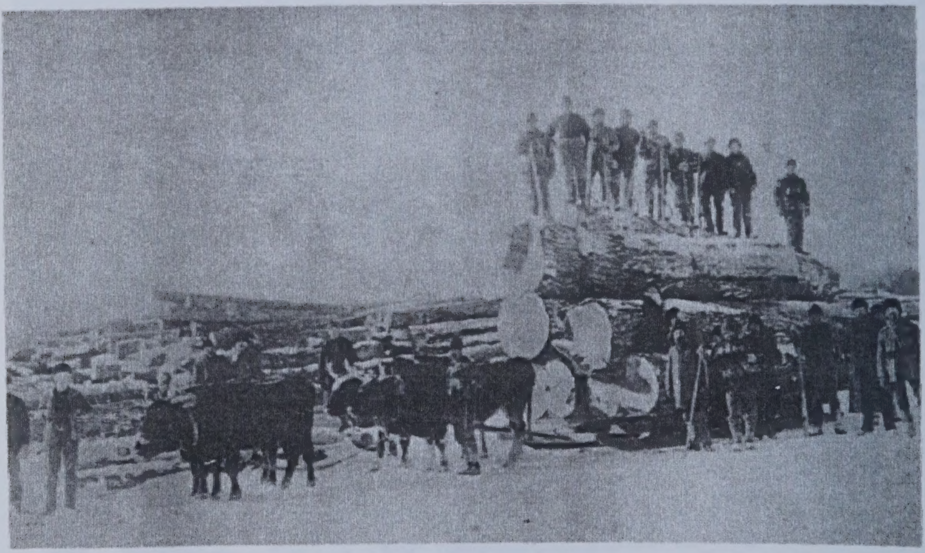
During the 1955-1956 season the saw mill here operated from December to April, sawing about one and one-half million feet of logs, mostly hardwood.

Many of the local farmers do not have enough treet to supply them with firewood, and are heating their houses with coal or oil.

Following are some of the prices available for the better grades of timber at the local mills and shipping points:

LOGS	PRICES PER 1,000 FEET		
	1856	1912	1956
Pine	$10.50	$40.00	$90.00
Hemlock	No Market	10.00	50.00
Rock Elm	No Market	12.00	50.00
Oak	No Market	35.00	80.00
Birch	No Market	16.00	150.00
Hard Maple	No Market	10.00	85.00
Ash	No Market	8.00	70.00
Basswood	No Market	10.00	90.00

Our dwindling timber supply should be a matter of concern to all of us. The mills have reduced their amounts of wasted wood; they take smaller logs from the tops of trees, and hollow logs which formerly were discarded are being salvaged. The manufacturer and the builder have substituted asphalt, asbestos, aluminum, steel, and other mineral products for shingles, siding, laths, and other wood products. The paper manufacturers and other far sighted companies and individuals have in progress for many years a program of reforestration and make seedling trees available to individuals and corporations for transplanting on private and public lands to provide timber and beauty for our future generations. And, all of us can do our part of conserving our forests by being careful with fires, the greatest destroyer of our woods. This cooperation of all our citizens will help supply logs and lumber for all times.



LOGGING OPERATIONS - PIONEER DAYS

AGRICULTURE IN THE MARATHON VICINITY

One hundred years ago the settlers were concerned primarily in the clearing of the land to make farms out of the wilderness. Timber was cut down and burnt. It took several years for the larger stumps to dry and rot sufficiently so that they could be burnt, dug out, or if oxen were available, pulled out.

The small spaces between the stumps were worked up, leveled as well as could be with the spades,hoes, and rakes; garden plots were made. Root crops such as turnips and beets,together with pumpkins helped to provide feed for man and beast. Wild animals, such as deer,rabbits, squirrels, and partridges furnished the meat for the tables. Later, pigs and chickens were raised as food for the settlers. When cows were brought here at a later date, they were left to roam at large, and when the meager supply of hay gave out towards spring, they readily ate the shoots and leaves from the trees as these were cut down.

Wheat, barley, rye, and oats were gradually seeded. The sickle, the scythe, the cradle, and the flail were the only harvesting machines. Gradually a few plows were introduced and later the steel-toothed harrow supplanted the wooden drag. The first mower and reaper were introduced in the county in 1874, and the first harvester in 1880, although there was a grain separator in the town of Hamburg as early as 1866.

Horses had replaced some of the oxen by 1870, as the farms were becoming larger, and more speed was required. Barnyard manures were carefully preserved to replenish the fertility of the soil. During the fall some of it was banked around the footings of the houses and barns to keep the wind out, and in Spring it was spread over the fields. The horse polulation in the county grew from 21 in 1860, to 273 in 1870, and 17,450 in 1920, then it dropped to 3,200 in 1956.

Fences of split rails, stones and stumps now marked the boundries of farms and fields to keep the cattle from roaming. As these enclosures became old, they were replaced, at the turn of the Century, by barbed and woven wire.

Fifty years after the primitive settlements, the cleared lands had increased to over fifty percent of the total farm acreage; by this time dynamite had helped to blow out the stumps. Large cattle barns were being built of sawed lumber and basements provided under them for the increasing herds of dairy cattle. Timber had become valuable, and even half rotten cordwood was sold and shipped to the lime kilns. Wheat, barley, oats,and hay were the chief crops. Corn was grown to some extent for feed in stalks, as ripe corn was rare on account of the short growing season. Some silos, mostly wooden-stave, were in use. Potatoes were grown mostly for home consumption. Canning peas were in vogue too, for a cash crop. The main farm income was from milk; and cheese factories or creameries were within a few miles of most of the farms. Marathon County was fast becoming the most outstanding dairy producer of the world.

After fifty years of croping the land,the need for lime and fertilizer became apparent. Lime sludge, a by-product of the paper mill at Mosinee, was hauled and spread on the fields, commercial fertilizers from the meat packing plants were purchased and used. Alfalfa raising was seen as a possibility in the county.

Farm machinery had improved and became popular in the early 1900's. Hardly a farm was without a hay mower,rake, grain binder, seeder, hay loader, manure spreader, and hay unloading equipment.

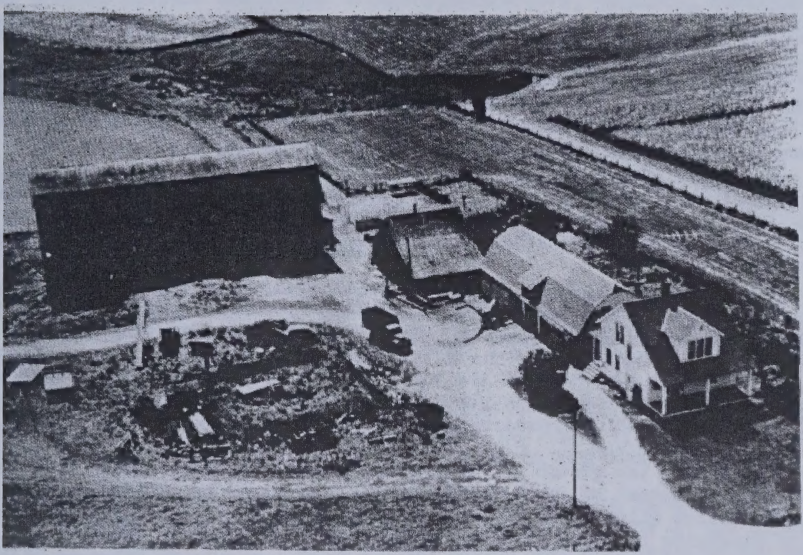
OLD TIMERS OF THE FARMING AND THE LOGGING INDUSTRIES--
Standing: Fred Linder, Paul Busse, Herman Hornung, Sr.,
Seated: Anton Buman, John Seubert.

Threshing, firewood sawing, and silo filling were neighborhood projects. One, or a company of farmers, would own a machine driven by a "horsepower" steam engine, gasoline engine or later a tractor. The machinery or "rig" was brought from farm to farm to perform the annual jobs. The neighbors would come together to form a crew to do the manual labor for these jobs. These were the days when the farm women would surely exhibit their culinary art in preparing sumptious meals to feed the hungry crews.

By 1920 large cumbersome one and two cylinder kerosene and gasoline tractors had come into use. They were used mostly for plowing, harrowing and threshing. But by 1925, the lighter four cylinder Fordson and McCormick-Deering came into use for harvesting and general farm work, and on steel wheels they attained a speed of up to four miles per hour.

Scientific farming was here too. Crop rotation was universal, commercial fertilizers were used extensively; hybrid seeds were obtained so that corn could be ripened sooner, and better yields obtained from all crops. To aid in the conservation of soil and water, the county cooperated with the farmers in laying out the farms for terracing, strip cropping and artificial pond building.

The rubber tired tractors in the 1930's, and the small second tractor, the milking machine, electricity on most farms, automatic water pumping systems, and many other conveniences made farming more agreeable. The sixteen hour farm day was being shortened.



MODERN FARM - MARATHON AREA 1957

The 1940's with World War II brought the greatest sudden changes. The defense program put the farmer in a position to go modern. The wheels went on rubber, the horses were mostly displaced by tractors, the five, six and eight foot combine, or self-harvester, did away with many binders and threshers. Grain elevators and blowers were used, hay, green and dry, was chopped in the field by large forrage cutters and blown into the barns and silos. Motor trucks were used in the fields as well as on the roads, automatic barn cleaners eased the winter chores, the fencing problem was expedited by electrically charged wire, and even the stately herd bull was being replaced by artificial practices.

But all this cost money. The complete outfit needed to chop the corn silage in the field cost at least $5,000 and after the war, prices started to pinch and as a result many smaller farms were annexed to those of the neighbors, so that the farm population became smaller. Many small farmers are supplementing their farm income by part or full time jobs in the industries at Wausau.

The farmers' life is not much different from that of his city cousin, now. His house is modern, with all the conveniences of the city plus free and easy parking, and no set time to be at work. His barns are well lighted and clean; his cows, mostly of Guernsey and Holstein breeds, are well bred and selected producers. His milk kept in a separate sanitary milk house is picked up daily by the buyer.

He drives the late model beautiful automobile, his children are taken to and from school in heated busses, and many country people take part in bowling and other activities in the village. The agricultural class in High school since 1939 has trained many young farm boys to fit not only into modern farming methods but also into modern living with the village and city people. It helped to break down the unwarrented class distinction which used to exist between the city and country people.

GINSENG - FUR FARMING - MAPLE SYRUP

What are those low lath-covered shacks in the fields around here? A question frequently asked by visitors. Theyare arbors which assimilate the natural habitat of the ginseng plant.

Around 1877 some dealers in medical herbs discovered that this plantwas growing in the deep woods of Marathon county, and, like hunting and trapping, it soon became a source of side income for those who had time to look for the parsnip-like root. The plant is from ten to twenty inches in height, and is identified by its five bright green leaves palmated at the end of several stems. Bright red berries bearing the seed are conspicuous in Fall.

The natural wild growth was fast exhausted, as it takes two years for the seed to germinate, and another five years for the root to mature. Attempts to raise the root in cultivated gardens succeeded in the late 1880's in New York and eventually in Wisconsin.

In the early 1900's, Reinhold Dietsch in the town of Hamburg, and the Volhards, Hornungs and Buchbergers in the town of Marathon established their "shang" gardens, and some of their descendents are still in this business. The prices of the cultivated root was less than that of the wild, yet it ranged from fifty cents to twelve dollars per pound of dried root, depending on market conditions in China where it is used for its medicinal and mystical values.

The progress in the growth of ginseng in this area is simultaneous with the growth of the Fromm Brothers' of the town of Hamburg. As early as 1808 these four boys who live about twelve miles north of here became interested in raising this root as a means of financing their ambition to raise silver foxes. Their thirty years struggle with ginseng and foxes is well told in Kathrene Pinkerton's book"Bright with Silver".

It was in 1903 that the dream of silver foxes began among the four younger Fromm boys, and soon the fading hope of trapping the fabulous animal gave way to the determination to breed it. To raise the modest sum to start this enterprise, they discovered that strange root called ginseng in their own woods.

They gathered, dried, and finally cultivated that esoteric plant to finance fox raising. Through the years,they developed machines and methods of making seed beds, treating seeds and plants against diseases, digging and preparing the roots for the Chinese market. All this had to be on a large scale, as the Fromms, for many years, were and still are the largest growers of ginseng in the world.

Fox raising grew with ginseng. From the first litter of red foxes purchased in 1909 for $25, the rach laborously grew to produce 30,000 fox pelts annually. From the first five by sixteen foot ginseng bed the plantation grew to 469 acres producing 8,183,000 pounds of roots. The 160 acre homestead grew in thirty years to a 17,000 acre ranch.

It was at the Fromm ranch within twelve miles of Marathonthat four boys proved to the world that fur grown on a farm was as fine as fur trapped in the woods. Through their obstinacy they grew, developed scientific curesfor fox encephalitis and distemper in foxes and domestic pets. By carefulbreeding and genetics they also reached their ambition to prove to the world that the market would turn to their larger, brighter-with-silver foxes.

When the long haired furs were replaced by the short haired mink in the 1940's, reduced their herd to a mere breeding strain to hold them over for the return of the fox market. They now went into the mink business, developing many mutations. Their annual yield reached 24,000 mink pelts.

Other fur farmers in this area, but on a much smaller scale, are the Buchbergers Vetters, Braunels, Sicklingers, Bouche, Stiebers, and the Niemann and Falk brothers.

Ginseng growers include the Nieman Brothers, Buchbergers, Volhards, Kurzejka, Kages, Hilmershausen, Witberler, Crochiere, Krautkramer, Hornungs, Stiebers and Beilkes.

In the "History of Northern Wisconsin" published by Western Historical Company of Chicago we read that the Indians had kettles in which to boil their maple sap, obtained probably from Fur Companies' Agents before the white settlers came. It is claimed by Mr. Green that the art of maple syrup making was understood and practiced by the Chippewa Indians even before the white race came to America; that they used birch bark boilers, which by careful management, over a fire with little or no blaze could be used to boil in. In 1841, one band consisting of 800 Indians went up to make sugar in the groves north of Wausau.

In the book "Early and Late Mosinee" we read that sometimes in the spring of the year a little maple sugar would be made, and the wife would make a tedious journey carrying all the sugar she was able to secure, her thread, needles, pins, skeins of yarn or other needed delacacies by trading.

It takes from thirty to forty gallons of tree sap to make a gallon of syrup. The sap is gathered daily during the run in late March and early April, and poured into large shallow pans under which a slow fire is burning to evaporate the water.

In recent years several large evaporators were introduced on farms on which there still are worth while sugar maple concentrations. One of these is on the Blume Farm just south of the village. They tap over 1,000 trees, and produce up to 500 gallons of syrup. Other farms are evaporating it on small pans for local and home consumption.

MODERN MINK RANCH

THE HOUSEWIFE THEN AND NOW

From time immemorial the wife was the helpmate of the husband and our pioneer women in the wilderness perhaps had to work harder than the men.

Besides cooking the grugal meals on the woodburning stoves with poor chimneys, in cold,drafty log huts without foundations, they had to grow, harvest and preserve the food for the long winters. Their gardens had to produce most of the victuals; such as,potatoes, beans, carrots, turnips, rutabagas, and pumpkins. Some had root cellars or part basements to preserve them,others kept them in the cattle barns until needed.

Men and women to a great extent wore homespun clothing, colored by boiling with the bark of hemlock or butternut shells which they gathered in the vast forest. They had needles and thread from the stores at Mosinee and Wausau for making and mending clothing.

Their hardest work was helping their husbands in the clearing of the land: piling the brush,sawing down trees and cutting them into logs,handspiking them together and burning them,helping in the picking of stones,planting, cultivating and harvesting, taking the little child out into the fields wrapped in comforters and attending to the wants of the little ones during pauses in the field work. One lady (Grand-ma Ritter) told me that on her way to the pasture a child was born to her,she put it in her apron,brought the cows home, put the child in the house and went to the barn and milked the cows as usual.

The "Early American Plumbing" is all they had for the next seventy-five or more, years. Water had to be bucketed from a dug well or spring for the house and often for the cattle too; the waste had to be carried out in slop pails.There were no washing machines,but the washboards and tub with homemade soap were a luxury compared to those who had to wash their clothes in a creek or spring. Rain water was caught from the roofs and stored in barrels for washing.

The wooden pump on a nearby well was the first improvement; and later a cistern in the house basement to store rain water from the eaves of the house, had a small pump for sucking the wash water into the kitchen.

The women saved ashes from burnt logs and put them into wooden barrels for leaching. The resulting lye was used for that good home-made soap.

The straw-tick instead of the modern inner-spring mattress, the feather tick and woolen quilts were a must in the cold wintery beds. Kerosene lamps and lanterns and tallow candles supplied light during the long winter evenings in both house and barn. It was not until after 1900 that the gasoline lamps came into restricted use, and after World War I the 32 volt electric farm plant was introduced. While electricity became popular in 1911 in the village, the country did not have the "high lines" until the late 1920's.

Bread was, of course, all home made, at first from flour carried from Stevens Point, Mosinee and Wausau. Later, when the small farms produced wheat, rye, and barley these were ground into flour either at home or at a mill in Wausau and later in Marathon. There were a few outside stone ovens in the area in which a fire was built and when hot the coals raked out and bread inserted for slow baking. Cakes and cookies were a rarity, but kuchen was frequently made for a Sunday or feast day.

Saurkraut and "Speck" (Fat Pork) was always a favorite with the Germans, as were potatoes cooked with jackets and eaten with cottage cheese. Barley and wheat were roasted and ground to be used as beverage instead of our coffee.

THE HOUSEWIFE THEN AND NOW

The pig was an important good item and soon every farm in the wilderness acquired several for their own consumption to supplement venison and other wild meats. With the help of the wife or a neighbor, a pig was butchered as needed. Head-cheese was among the home made items most relished. Most of the pork was put into a strong salt brine and often smoked later for taste and better keeping. Salt was purchased by the barrel. Meat grinders were not yet in use in the early days.

Later the butchering "bees" became common. Each farmer who had several fattened hogs, in turn, would call in several neighbors to help kill, scald, and cut up the animals. The wives would come also to prepare a sumptious meal, clean the casings for sausage, and cut up meat for sausage. There were pork, liver, and blood sausages and head-cheese made as can not be bought in a butcher shop to this day.

If one neighbor became ill and not able to work, the neighbors readily came together, planted, cultivated, and harvested his crops, and the women saw to it that the sick man lacked nothing. This is a custom retained to this age.

Cleaning the barn and feeding the cattle in winter usually were the chores of the housewife as was the milking of the cows by hand. Many are still doing this in spite of the widespread introduction of the milking machine in the late 1930's.

Butter was made with a hand operated churn, and cottage cheese, and at times regular cheeses, were made at home. As late as the 1940's some village families had their own cows to supply them and a few neighbors of their dairy needs. But as the lots were built up and taxes and feed became higher, they were all discontinued in the village.

The housewife's work was not improved by modern machinery and gadgets for many years. The rubber wash wringer and the washing machine, both operated by hand, were not popular before 1900, and the electric washer was not available in this area until after World War I. There were some charcoal and gasoline heated flat irons in use before the electric became available.

Electricity, when it came, was the housewife's greatest helper. No more cleaning of soothy lamp chimneys and filling of lamps with kerosene; the electric water system brought water into the barn and house; the washing machine eased the clothes cleaning job, the electric iron saved numerous trips to the hot stove and the refrigerator, toaster, freezer, electric stove, automatic water heater, and lately the automatic washer and dryer have made the modern women forget the tedious housework our pioneer women had.

Bottled gas for cooking and hot water is also now available for convenience and at a saving even over wood and coal cooking.

Canning and preserving of foods, which took much time in winter and summer for over a half century, has now been replaced to a great extend by frozen food lockers and home freezers. Factory canned goods are also used extensively and no home is without a can opener.

THE HOUSEWIFE - THEN AND NOW

Nearly every home has now built-in cupboards instead of pantry; a furnace evenly distributes the heat from floor to ceiling throughout most of the modern homes; coal or oil heating fuels are very common; bathrooms and indoor toilets are nearly universal for comfort and health.

Most of the clothes are now bought ready-made. For those now making a few at home and for mending, the sewing machine has been in use over a half century, and even this machine is fast becoming electrified. Knitting is done a little, but mostly as a hobby by a few women.

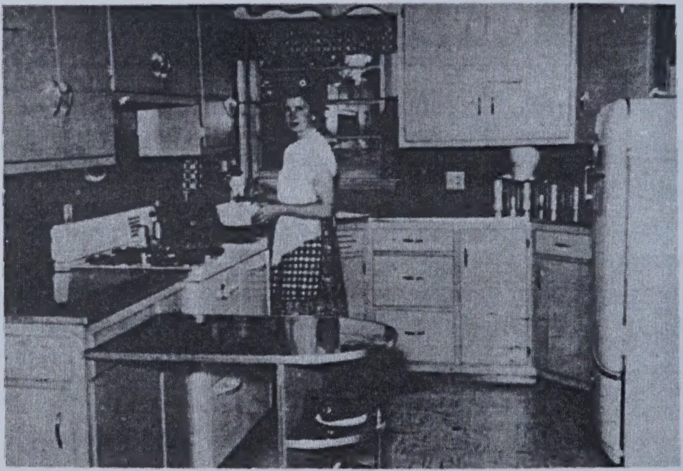
Their babies are born in a hospital under the best medical and surgical care, instead of in a cold home with only the father or a neighbor lady attending.

Oh, the children are still much the same: in summer they constantly slam the doors which they left open all winter, and mother still has to check whether they washed behind the ears.

Some farm women still must help in fields and in the barns, but this work is now much easier with modern machinery. Tractor operation is much easier than coaxing a team of oxen or controlling horses.

Today we find eighteen businessmens' wives helping their husbands in the operation of their establishments.

Most of our women drive the family automobile, many supplement their husband's earnings by full time jobs either in Marathon or Wausau. They dress well and quite modest. Nearly all wear their hair medium short with a permanent wave applied by a beautition or combed back into a "pony tail". Their dresses are of moderate length and in summer the younger generation, and even some older women, often wear shorts instead of dresses. Many girls wear slacks or jeans. Most women of High School age and older apply lip stick and powder and rouge to enhance their beauty....this practice came into use in this area around 1880.



MODERN KITCHEN - ALVINA SZYMANSKI

SPORTS AND RECREATION

In the early days when the population was small and scattered through the woods, there was of course no chance for sports as we know them to-day. Work was to exacting to leave much desire for play;rest was the greatest enjoyment,heightened by an occasional visit of the whole family at a neighbor's home. A dance or two a year in one of the larger houses was the height of social pleasure.

For the school children, helping their elders was their daily chore; seeding, picking stones and roots,burning stumps and wood,harvesting and feeding animals were as natural as it is for our modern children to play and watch television.

Oh, they had their pet dogs, cats, lambs or calves, and occasionally a tamed crow, squirrel,rabbit or other animal. Their home-made sleds and toboggans gave them much enjoyment on the Marathon hills in winter. Isn't it deplorable that our civilization has deprived our youngsters of today this natural sport here on the ideal hill where there is no longer a safe place for sleigh riding?

Checkers, a game of Schofskopf with cards and the old mill game were popular evening pastimes.

Fish and game were plentiful in the pioneer days, but it took much time, and many lacked guns. Hook and line, spear, trap and net were used for fish. For meat they hunted deer, bear, rabbit, grey and fox squirrels; birds included the partridge and rat,mink the wild ducks and geese. Among the native animals caught for fur were muskrat, mink, racoon, weasel, fox, fisher, wolf, beaver, bear, wildcat, lynx, marten, coyote, mole, and badger.

But as the forests dwindled and the population grew,the deer and the bear disappeared, and the game animals and birds became harder to find. By 1885 the game wardens appeared in Wisconsin to help preserve our natural resources; open and closed seasons and bag limits were set on many species.

Today hunting is still a popular sport. The deer and bear have vanished from this immediate area;but with modern transportation this feverish recreation is still within less than an hours drive from here. Hunting this large game by rifle is still the most popular during the week's season in November, but bow and arrow hunters are on the increase. The partridge, rabbit and squirrel are still the most commonly hunted game, as they are still plentiful in the dwindling forest lands in this area. Ducks are kept under control by some sportsmen who go in groups to keep these enemies of game under control with large hounds and automatic shot guns.

A local Archery Club was organized in 1945. It now has 18 members and have shot in the past few years 18 legal deer.

Fishing is not what it used to be,but the Rib River offers sucker fishing in early Spring and wall-eyed pike and muskies. The Big Eau Pleine and DuBay Flowages to the South and the many lakes in Northern Wisconsin lure many of us for a day's outing.

Baseball, and basketball of course are popular with the younger people. Marathon has a well-lighted softball diamond and a large modern gymnasium for these purposes. The High School has teams to play against neighboring schools in the Mara-Wood Conference. We must not fail to mention the ardent rivalry that has existed between Edgar and Marathon schools for over 30 years. Friendly enemies in sports--but many alumni have found marriage partners in the rival school.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Bowling is a popular evening sport and both men and women have their leagues. Ice skating in winter is made possible by the rink which is provided by the village. But, in spite of the ideal hill, sleigh riding and tobogganing no longer have a place in the village. It is hoped that some day safe slides will be provided for our children.

There were Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops in the village several years ago, but due to lack of ledership they have been discontinued.

Marbles and kite flying have been a spring pastime for school children for over a half centruy.

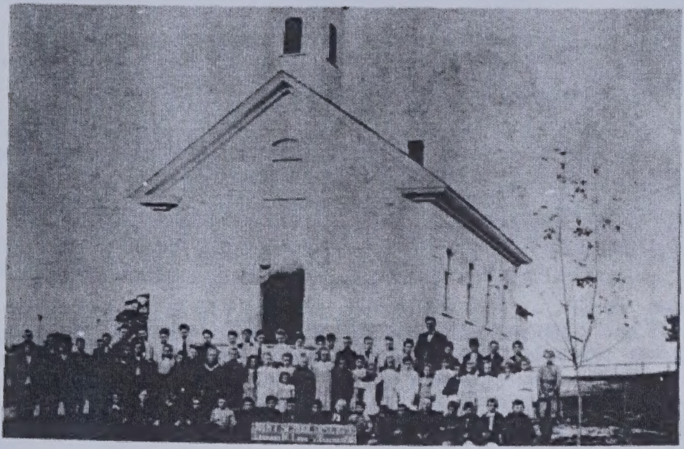
Swimming for sport and recreation is enjoyed by many. Although no civic swimming pool is provided the"Old Swimming Hole"west of the village in the Rib River is still popular with the youngsters during the hot summer days.

The Marathon Square Dance Club organized in 1948 by L. H. Bruce has grown to over 40 members and is one of over fifty clubs in the state comprising the "Square Dance Association of Wisconsin". Square Dancers believe in fun and helping others to have fun. It has been their aim to achieve a high level of sociability, courtesy, and good fellowship among the people through the medium of square and kindred dances. It is democracy at play.

Two large modern dance halls near the village,each able to accomodate 1200 people are very popular especially with the young folks and for wedding dances both the young and the old turn out in large numbers. The Rib River Ballroom,one mile west on highway 29 is operated by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Prihoda while Poplar Tree Ballroom two miles south on highway 107 is operated by Mr. & Mrs. John Schumacher. The Popular Dances of today are the Waltz, Polka, Two-step, Jitterbug, Fox-trot, Schottisch and a version of it known as Bunny-hop, Flying Dutchman, and the latest "The Rock 'N Roll."

PROM - MARATHON HIGH SCHOOL - 1957

THE PROGRESS OF EDUCATION



ORIGINAL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT -- SCHOOL TOP OF HILL MAIN STREET

The first school in Marathon County was conducted in a rented building at Wausau in 1854 with six or seven enrolled. The lady teacher received $4 per week plus room and board. A school year lasted about four months.

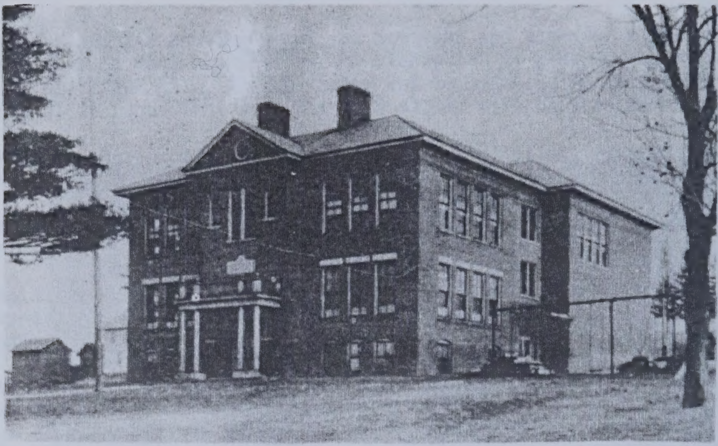
Among the first settlers who came to Marathon City in 1957 were at least two teachers. In August 1858 the little community engaged one of these, Joseph Schuster as schoolmaster. His main occupation as stipulated by contract was to teach German reading and writing at least four times weekly, and religion daily, including Sunday, all for $15 a month.

While one room country schools were springing up in the settlements north of here mention is made of a district school-house in the village in 1867. It was located on the east side of the road near the top of the hill, being block #68 and the corner of Main & South Streets. John Sturm was the teacher residing north-west of the wood-frame school building.

Knowledge of the three R's (Reading 'Ritin' & Rithmetic) was about all that was required of a student. Four to six years of schooling was considered a high education. In some locallities a person with this education was offered a teaching job.

The pioneers, mostly Catholics and being of the belief that a complete education consists of the mental, moral and physical developement of the child, provided a parochial school in the basement of their new church in 1875, and staffed it with Franciscan Sisters in 1882.

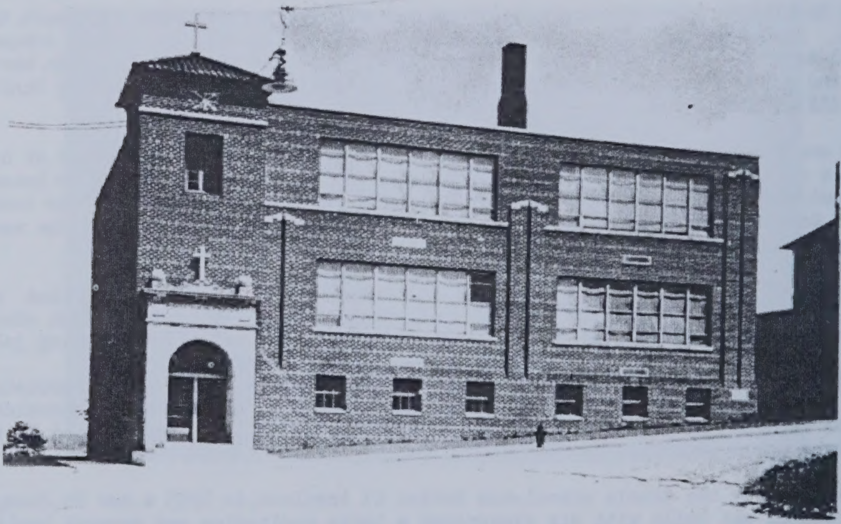
Not deterred by the double school-tax burden it involved, in 1905 a new St. Josephs Catholic school was built with six classrooms a large auditorium and several bowling alleys. Destroyed in 1936 by fire, it was replaced in 1937 by the present St. Mary's school having eight classrooms, and auditorium and hot lunch facilities.



ORIGINAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING - 1908
WITH 1932 ADDITION IN REAR

The original Marathon High School was built of brick in 1908 at a cost of $10375.40 under the direction of Marchetti. This district school was erected on a city block originally put aside for a Market Square, being block #40 located one block east of Main Street. It replaced the old grade school on top of the hill; the latter being auctioned off in 1909 for $915.

The new building had four rooms, but only two were in use by 1912, when 70 pupils were enrolled with Mr. R. E. Curran as principal and Ruth Ross as assistant. In 1913 under the principal R. H. Fischer, a tenth grade was added. The first class to graduate from the tenth grade was Joe G. Ritger and Mrs. Alfred Schneiders



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

THE PROGRESS OF EDUCATION

The wages paid the rural teachers in 1912 in the county were a little better than the state average, and ranged up to $60 per month. At present our grade school teachers are getting up to $450 per month on a nine month basis.

In 1911 the county districts received from the state school fund $2.67 for every child between the ages of 4 and 20; and an equal amount was levied by the county at large, and the balance was raised by the individual district.

In 1957 the district received from the State $30 for each elementary child and $35 for each high school student. The county paid $350 per elementary teacher or about $10 per pupil.

It cost about $100,000 to operate the entire school in 1956 to 1957. $63,000 was received from tuition students outside of the village, $700 from the county and $8115 from out of State.

The Marathon school taught the ten grades until W. K. Doonen came in 1922. In the meantime those who wanted to complete a higher education, had to go to Wausau or other places including Edgar. At the High School organization meeting held in 1922, so many came that they had to be adjourned to the village hall. After explaining and discussing the four year high school course the votes taken were overwhelmingly in favor of this additional schooling. There were fifteen graduates in the first class (1925).

The physical education of the child had been somewhat neglected in the school up to this time. Of course, in cutting the farms out of the wilderness the farm children had outlets for their physical energy;but in a school such as this the need for a place for games and other activities under supervision affords an opportunity for character - building. Basketball games had been played in the village hall since early 1900.

Under principal W. E. Moore a gymnasium was added to the south side of the High School with provisions for a stage, and a large assembly room and two classrooms on the second floor. At this time adjoining town Marathon school district ceceded from the village school district. By 1939 the rooms again became crowed, and with the numerous country boys attending high school the need for courses in Agriculture and scientific farming was apparent. A large Agricultural shop, four classrooms and modern wash-room facilities were added to the north of the old building.

The increasing birth rate after World War II, the need for better education realized by contracts with the rest of the nation, the state law compelling the attendance to the age of sixteen, free transportation beyond two miles from a school and the need for a home-making course in high school, all contributed to the inadequacy of our school in the early 1950's.

After reassessing the village in 1953 to 1954 to get the full valuation and thereby increasing the borrowing power of the district,the bids for another addition still exceeded our available funds. The schoolboard rejected all bids and, with the aid of the principal, Mr. J. C. Gillmann, bought the material and labor and saved approximately $20,000 in erecting the new Gymnasium and classroom addition at the north of the Agricultural addition. The project was completed in 1955 at a cost of approximately $160,000 with equipment.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: J. C. Gillman, Principal, Larry Lohr, Clerk, Alfred Straub, Treasurer, I. J. Corey and Rollie Miller, Directors, bottom picture: Edward Buchberger, Sr., President.

Joint District #12 of the towns of Mosinee and Emmet joined the Marathon Village District in 1954, and is expected that within a few years more rural districts will make the same move to obtain a better and less expensive education for their children.

At present, remodeling of the old gymnasium is nearly complete; and the modern fully equipped home-making laboratory and spacious science laboratory will make this one of the finest schools in the county having 13 class rooms and laboritories besides a general purpose room and a play room in the old gymnasium.

It is remarkable how the Educational picture has changed even during the last ten years. While the enrollment increased from 139 in high school and 39 in the grades in 1946-1947 to 214 in high school and 60 in the grades in 1956-1957. The annual expenditure increased from $30,000 to $90,000. While there were two grade school teachers in both periods there was an increase of four high school teachers in the ten years. In the 1946-47 period grade school teachers averaged ~~$3525~~ 7681 andhigh school teachers $3,000 annually. Today the grade school teachers average $3,525 and the ten high school teachers $4,300. But this increase is not out of line with wages paid in industries, and the investment of time and money the teacher has in preparation for a teacher's certificate. The parochial school educates 300 children without the expense to the public taxpayer.

THE PROGRESS OF EDUCATION

The status of the child has changed too from the time of the 1920s when the school boy wore the knickerbocker and overalls and has now been replaced by long pants like his dad wears. The traditional distinction between the country and the city child has disappeared, they all have more leisure time, no more wood to carry in and other chores to do; their monthly allowances are liberal in most cases the child of to-day has more money than our pioneer adults had.

We live in a specialized age: a world of greater technological skill and advanced knowledge and highly scientific means of communications, transportation and entertainment. This advanced living requires the youths to be better informed and educated so that they will fit into society and be able to meet the challenge of the fast changing economy.

Our school, meets the state's requirement for an intergrated school by offering extra-curricular activities. We have 53 students in the band, 40 taking part in the forensic program, 42 in Agricultural classes, 65 in vocal chorus and all are required to take physical education. They have their own school publications.

Approximately 900 have been graduated from our high school since 1925. A very small percent of the graduates stay in the community as their education has fitted them to get higher wages in industrial communities.

The first annual Homecoming was held on February 1, 1957.

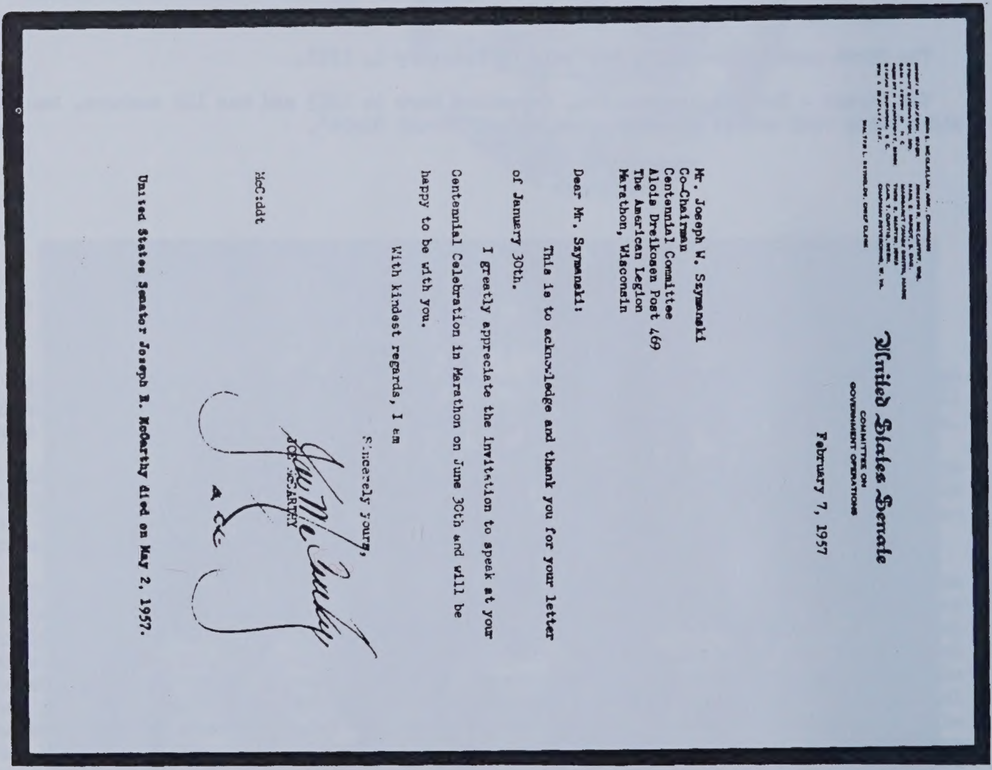
The Parent - Teacher Association, organized here in 1953 and has 111 members, besides being very active sponsoring an annual "Stunt Night".

MARATHON HIGH SCHOOL BAND - 1957

Centennial Program

Marathon, Wisconsin
June 28-29-30, 1957

Tuesday, May 21, 1957
    Musical Revue by St. Anthony's Seminary Choir
Friday, June 28, 1957
    8;30 P. M. Home Talent Show
    9:30 P. M. Buck Leverton Show
    9:30 P. M. Square Dancing Under the Stars
Saturday, June 29th, 1957
    2:00 P. M. Kiddy Parade
    3:00 P. M. Soap Box Derby
    4:00 P. M. Tricycle Races
    8:30 P. M. Beard Judging Contest
    9:00 P. M. Crowning of Centennial Queen
    9:00 P. M. Queen's Ball at High School Gymnasium
Sunday, June 30th, 1957
    1:00 P. M. Centennial Parade
    3:00 P. M. Centennial Program and Address
Pedersen's Dairy State Rides and Concessions
Lunches, Dairy Bars and Refreshments



United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

February 7, 1957

Mr. Joseph W. Szymanski
Co-Chairman
Centennial Committee
Alois Dreikosen Post 469
The American Legion
Marathon, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Szymanski:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of January 30th.

I greatly appreciate the invitation to speak at your Centennial Celebration in Marathon on June 30th and will be happy to be with you.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Joe McCarthy
JOE McCARTHY

McC:ddt

United States Senator Joseph R. McCarthy died on May 2, 1957.

THE MARATHON CENTENNIAL

The Marathon Centennial Celebration was officially sponsored by the Alois Dreikosen Post #469 of the American Legion. However, the entire community was asked to participate in this once in a life time occasion and responded with gratifying results. This was demonstrated by approximately 300 men raising beards and mustaches while another 200 displayed shavers permits. When the Queen Contest opened, 2,500 buttons were disposed of in less than a week. Whole-hearted support was also given to the advertising program in which all the business concerns participated. When this booklet went to press eigthty-five applicants for floats and nine musical units had already expressed their desire to enter the Centennial Parade on Sunday, June 30th at 1:00 PM.

A hearty "THANK YOU," to all who helped to make the Marathon Centennial a success.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: left to right: Philip Butalla, Ray Kage, Sylvester Prihoda, Harry Bier, Joseph Szymanski, Robert Gage, Ryles Genger and Hubert Lang.

CENTENNIAL QUEEN CONTESTANTS SELLING BUTTONS: left to right, men: Joseph Szymanski, Harry Bier and Village President M. J. Wagner. Contestants, left to right: Doreen Kiepke, Lucille Wagner, Marlene Wagner, Lorraine Baumann and Gladys Koepp.

Centennial Notes

Ten to fifteen thousand people witnessed the mile long parade consisting of over ninety units.

During the three day celebration the Brewery disposed of 160 barrels of beer; the stand at the picnic grounds selling $50\frac{1}{4}$ barrels
But there were no drunks, no fights and no accidents!

Uncle Adolph Ritger received a prize for the darkest beard.

They drank the Brewery dry in 3 days at the Centennial

— Al Straub

Marathon City Business Association 2005 Members

Advantage Building Systems, LLC
AirRunner Networks LLC
AJR Trucking LLC
Arrow Tap
Aspirus-Marathon Clinic
Balanced Touch Ministries
Berens Insurance Agency, LLC
Brickner Motors Inc.
Central Wisconsin Lumber Inc.
Color Creations
County Center Animal Hospital
County Materials Corp.
Cozy Corner Daycare
Curves
Customer One Co-op
Family Vision Center
Fischer Transportation, Inc.
Forms Specialists, Inc.
George's Marathon Foods Inc.
Ginco USA
High Noon
Hurtis Companies
ILC, LLC and Rib River Properties
Kid City Day Care
Kipper Konstruction LLC
K-K Mini Storage
Kurt Gibbs Tax Service Inc.
Lee's Hardware Inc/TLE Hardware
Maratech/Channeled Resources Group
Marathon Cheese Corp.
Marathon Chiropractic Office
Marathon Family Dentistry
Marathon Feed Inc.
Marathon Investments & Insurance
Marathon Lanes
Marathon State Bank
Marth Transportation, Inc.
Marth Wood Shaving Supply, Inc.
Menzner Lumber & Supply Co.
Dr. Michael J. Strong DDS
Morgan Sand & Gravel Inc.
MV Services Inc.
Myska Oil & Motors LLC
Peoples State Bank
Peterson/Kraemer Funeral Home
Rib River Ballroom Inc.
Roger Kreager Ins Agency Inc.
Sally's Styling Studio
Dan Seubert Builders LLC
Seubert Monuments
Star Environmental Inc
Steffenie's Hair Salon
Style "N" & Tan "N"
Sugar N' Spice Bulk Food
Sulzer Machine & Manufacturing, Inc.
Village Inn
Walter Jansen Builders Inc.
Wilichowski Realty & Auction

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION LABOR DAY WEEK 2007

REPRODUCTION PRICE $10.00